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Opposition uses bread issue to put Kabariti government on trial

By Raed Al Abed
Star Staff Writer

THE WHITE revolution of Prime Minister Abdel Karim Kabariti is facing hard times as he tries to keep it on course. Jordanians, their representatives in the Lower House, and social and political organizations and parties are up in arms to face government intention to lift subsidy on basic goods, especially bread.

The bread issue has become so heated up that some observers believe it is threatening the future of the white revolution and indeed this government.

A national consensus against tampering with bread prices is taking place for the first time since the fuel riots of 1989.

In this week's informal meeting with the Prime Minister, the majority of the deputies, expressed their rejection of any increase in the price of bread. They also warned the government of the social consequences of such a move. The meeting was held at the request of the deputies to discuss government plans to lift subsidies and the negative effects this would have on people.

Mr. Kabariti assured deputies

that lifting subsidies on wheat will not lead to an increase in bread prices. He stressed that no Jordanian will be affected by this move, adding that "every Jordanian will receive JD 1.82 every month to compensate for the differences in prices."

The Prime Minister stated that bread prices will be floated and that the move aims at directing subsidies to Jordanians while denying it to foreign laborers, tourists and cattle farmers. The meeting reached a boiling point after Mr. Kabariti made his presentation.

"I am the father of the family here," Kabariti said. "I am responsible for all of you, one by one, just like you are responsible to your families." Kabariti patronizing tone surprised some deputies who started whispering to each other.



Kabariti

Kabariti did not hesitate to blame previous governments for the deteriorating economic situation in the country. "Previous governments had the economic program but did not implement it, so I am left to

carry out the burden," he added. "There is JD195 million that has to be paid, and a JD 388 million bill for the needs of the citizens that have to be covered."

At the end of the meeting the government and deputies left the room with no agreement.

Observers believe that the government intentions come at a crucial time. Deputies have to flex their muscles to gain the support of their electorate since the bread issue is seen as sensitive and precarious.

Observers also believe that the coming extraordinary session, which is expected to start on 20 July, will turn into a showdown between deputies and the government. The sensitivity of the bread issue will make the session a battlefield—a stark reminder of the tense debates that took place on the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty in October 1994.

Popular organizations, particularly in the south are collecting signatures to protest the economic policies of the government.

For their part, the Islamic bloc is proving to be the star of the show. The IAF has pre-

pared itself for a bone-breaking battle. IAF deputies have been going around the Kingdom talking to people about the deteriorating economy and the alleged human rights violations. Islamic deputies have escalated their criticism, particularly on the lifting of subsidies on basic foodstuffs.

The IAF activities are part of a series of campaigns against the government. Moderates in the IAF, who initially welcomed the open door policy of the Kabariti government, changed their tunes as the latter allegedly arrested 40 Islamic activists. Such arrests, which continue periodically, have weakened the moderates within the Islamic movement. Consequently, the moderates were overtaken by the hardliners now control the majority of seats in the elections of the branches of the Muslim Brotherhood in the country.

Sources told *The Star* that the hardliners won 235 out of 270 seats. The hardliners are expected to win most of the Shura council seats in elections that are expected later

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Radioactive leakage from Dimona to be discussed in major Amman conference this year

By Ahmad Shaker
Special to The Star

THE ISSUE of potential radiation leakage from Israel's Dimona reactor in the Negev will be one of the main issues at the Arab Conference on Radiation, which will be held in Amman at the end of this year. According to recent Israeli television reports, the reactor may be facing major technical problems and Israeli scientists have been on the scene for some time. No conclusive evidence has emerged yet.

News of a possible radioactive leakage from the reactor aroused concern in Jordan recently as the number of cancer cases, particularly in the south of the country, is said to have increased. The reactor is about 60 kilometers west of Tafilah. The potential health hazard from the reactor is worrying other countries including Syria and Egypt.

Both are said to be exchanging data on the possible dangers of radioactive leakage from Dimona. Jordan could suffer the most from a nuclear accident in Dimona because of its proximity. Jordan's underground water resources could be affected in the southern Ghaz Valley and Wadi Araba.

Indicates recent increase in radioactive pollution in the south of the country. Unconfirmed reports speak of strange diseases being discovered in the south which could be caused by radiation.

However, officials at the Ministry of Energy were quick to assure people in the south that they are clear from any abnormal levels of radiation. But insiders report that the government is deeply worried about the possibility of a nuclear accident in Dimona which could affect the south of Jordan. Ministry of Energy experts are sent on regular intervals along with technical teams to carry out studies and surveys and take samples to be tested at local and international labs. The government has not released the results of these tests.

But Minister of Energy, Mr. Hashim Al Dabbas, insists that the government will not hide any information that would harm the public health, adding that there are no further details about any rise in radiation levels.

But there are issues of great concern as reports suggest and some point to an impending nuclear disaster because:

■ The Dimona reactor was built over 40 years ago with

inferior technology. It was expanded in a way that does not suit its original design.

■ The storage of nuclear waste does not comply with international standards. Waste is stored in drums made more than 30 years ago.

■ There are some information indicating that Israel is storing radioactive waste dumps near Wadi Araba and south of the Dead Sea close to sources of underground water.

■ And the fact that Israel still refuses international inspection of its nuclear facilities.

Despite these facts, Israel denies reports of nuclear mismanagement at Dimona or the possibility of a radioactive leakage. An expert in Israeli affairs and a researcher at Dar Al Jaill for Publishing and Studies, Mr. Ghazi Al Sa'adi, said that "Israel denies having any nuclear weapons when the whole world knows it does. How can we believe its denial of a nuclear radiation at Dimona?"

He said that leakage may be at its beginnings and Israel is trying to put an end to it for the welfare of its citizens. A clear evidence for this may be the allocation of special budget for maintenance operations by the Israeli government of nuclear

facilities.

Former prime minister and chairman of the Jordan Environment Society, Mr. Ahmed Obaidat, said that there could be a link between recent earthquakes in southern Jordan and the possibility of radiation leakage in Dimona.

Mr. Obaidat called for forming a Jordanian national committee to undertake a comprehensive study of the actual reasons for the continuous rise in cancer cases in some areas and determine if this is related to mishaps at Dimona.

The Beirut based weekly magazine *Al Isbat* Al Arabi published a report recently in which it said that the Dimona reactor has the capability of producing enough plutonium to make 10 nuclear warheads annually. The reactor, which was built in 1964 as a result of secret cooperation between France and Israel, has two divisions: the first is the 'hot part' where there are atomic installations, laboratories and scientific establishments connected to nuclear fission. The second is the 'cold part' which consists of labs and office buildings housing experts and laborers.

The magazine adds that other Israeli nuclear sites include:

■ The National Institute—Al

Tekhnion—situated north of Haifa. The Institute was built in 1954 to train students and experts. Recently it became a center for developing missile technology including nuclear warheads. It has a small atomic reactor producing 25 million electrons.

■ Division 20 of the Dimona Reactor situated in Haifa and specializing in the production of nuclear bombs.

■ Division 48: It is annexed to division 20 and is today a lab for missile development.

■ Jacob Well: Situated underground in an undisclosed area. The center develops missiles, laser guiding systems and communications for submarines.

■ Nahak Sorik nuclear facility: Situated in an isolated area of the same name along the Mediterranean south of Tel Aviv. The reactor was built in 1960 with a capacity of one mega watt, then it was increased to 5 mega watt.

Other centers involved in nuclear power, studies and development of nuclear warheads include the Weizman Institute, Zakaria settlement, Telros settlement near Jerusalem, Nabteem airport, and Prophet Robin reactor.

US military underestimated threat in Saudi, Perry says

By John Mintz and R. Jeffrey Smith
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

WASHINGTON—US Secretary of Defense William Perry said Tuesday that both the force and sophistication of the bomb that killed 19 airmen in Saudi Arabia indicated that US military commanders in Saudi Arabia had underestimated the capabilities of terrorists in the region, as Senate Republicans hotly demanded he explain why more steps were not taken earlier to protect US troops.

Appearing in one of the most contentious hearings he has faced since his 1994 appointment, Perry also confirmed to the Senate Armed Services Committee that Saudi Arabian officials had failed to act on requests by mid-level US military officials for security upgrades and said he wished the officials had informed him of the resistance before the blast, in time to apply more pressure.

But Perry also defended the actions of senior military officials responsible for security at US military bases in the Gulf.

as several Democratic senators tried to distance him and Gen John Shalikashvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, from the political fallout.

Some other Democrats joined the GOP members, however, in questioning why Air Force commanders in the desert kingdom failed to press reluctant Saudi officials to expand a security perimeter around the high-rise building in Dhahran, and failed to take other steps to thwart intruders.

Perry said intelligence reports on Mideast terrorist threats before the 25 June blast were "fragmentary and inconclusive," but denied that it was an "intelligence failure."

In seeking to explain why the bombers had caught US officials by surprise, Perry said it is his working assumption that the group "had extensive support from an experienced and well-financed international terrorist organization," and also "had sophisticated training, did extensive practice, and had access to military quality explosives."

Last week, US officials said privately the bombers appar-

ently had help from outside Saudi Arabia. A government official privy to details of the probe said Tuesday that investigators now believe the bombing was not carried out by home-grown Saudi dissidents, or by the same group that bombed a Riyadh building last November, killing five Americans.

The official said it may emerge that the new bombing was arranged by Iran, Iraq, or another country, or by well-known terrorist groups opposed to the Middle East peace process and the presence of US forces in the region. Highlighting the continuing dangers from unnamed foes, Perry said "we can expect further attacks."

Tuesday's hearing marked the bombing's transition from national tragedy to hot presidential political issue, as Senate Republicans appeared to be test-marketing what could prove a useful campaign issue. They wanted to know why intelligence officials blundered in failing to prepare for a bomb in the 5,000-pound range, why

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Netanyahu yields no ground on Israeli-Arab issues

By Thomas W. Lippman
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

WASHINGTON—In his first meeting with President Clinton since his May 29 election, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu lived up to his advance billing Tuesday.

He yielded no ground on any of the major issues separating the Jewish state from its Palestinian and Syrian neighbors and adhered firmly to the positions he took during his campaign, putting Israeli security ahead of all other considerations.

He said he will not meet Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, withdraw Israeli troops from the volatile West Bank city of

Hebron or lift the border restrictions that have kept hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from work until he is satisfied the Palestinians are fully committed to combating terrorism and that the safety of Israeli citizens will be assured.

Netanyahu said that while Arafat's Palestinian Authority is making some progress in combating terrorism, it is violating its agreements with Israel in other ways, and he insisted that Israel will honor its own commitments only on a reciprocal basis.

"While we yield to no one in our desire for peace, on the question of security and terrorism, we will not accept the notion that peace and terrorism

can coexist under one roof," Netanyahu said at a joint White House news conference with Clinton.

With his youthful appearance and American English, Netanyahu presented a much different face of Israel from that of his predecessors, elder statesmen with European accents. He also demonstrated much less eagerness to press ahead with peace agreements, reminding his US audience that he viewed his narrow electoral victory as a mandate to reassess the Middle East peace process through the prism of Israeli security first.

Clinton did not dispute him. He said he thinks Netanyahu

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Abdala Bucaram wins Ecuador election by appealing to the poor

By Gabriel Escobar
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

GUAYAQUIL, Ecuador—The day before Abdala Bucaram won Sunday's presidential runoff, the poor Ecuadorians who showed up at his political headquarters formed a line that stretched out the door, down the stairs and into the street.

The lure was not the future president but free peach juice, donated by a local company. Upstairs, the candidate's brother and national political coordinator, Adolfo Bucaram, struggled to regain control of his chaotic office, just then overwhelmed by bickering staff workers and a wall of juice cartons.

Abdala Bucaram, who will be sworn in as Ecuador's president on August 10, was not around at the time. He was playing soccer at the agricultural college. If this weren't enough proof that this was not a conventional campaign, the sudden need to pay for lunches on election day did the trick. A businessman appeared with 1 million sucres in cash, roughly \$300, tied neatly

with a rubber band, which the grateful Adolfo Bucaram slipped into his right pocket.

Whether all this is a window into how the new Ecuadorian government will work or simply another example of the iconoclastic Bucaram and his ample clan is hard to gauge. What is certain, however, is that Ecuadorians woke up Monday morning with a far clearer view of what their future holds, especially since it is now in the hands of a man who has been precise in his promises but vague on specifics.

At 44, Bucaram, who is of Lebanese origin, is, if nothing else, different. Tuited in the art of populism by his well-known uncle, Assad Bucaram, Abdala Bucaram is described even by foes as intelligent and uncannily astute in the political trenches. But he has also been successful despite himself. Although his rhetoric has been comparatively tame in this campaign, there is enough in his past to raise a number of questions—questions his political opponents were happy to pose Monday.

If there is any conventional wisdom about Bucaram's surprise triumph in Sunday's runoff—he trounced centrist candi-



Bucaram

date Jaime Nebot Saadi by 54 percent to 46 percent—it is that the apocalyptic predictions associated with the triumph of a populist will not come to pass. Ecuador's market-oriented reforms, which he said he supports, are said to be safe. Bucaram has

repeatedly assured foreign and domestic investors that he supports more, not less, private industry.

Even if he wanted to reverse the reforms and give the state more control over the economy, the reality of the global market would act as an important check, said a public administrator who has served in several governments, including the current one. "I think he will be enormously pragmatic in this sense," said the official, who like others discussing Bucaram's past and future spoke on condition he not be named.

But if all this prevents panic, that doesn't mean there is peace of mind. Unknown, for example, is whether the long-anticipated sale of the state-owned telephone company will now go forward. The government official said the Ecuadorian military, like many Ecuadorians, is waiting expectantly and, in his words, asking, "What is this person going to do?"

If past is prologue—and the archaeology into Bucaram's history will likely be a popular vocation—then the president-elect may still be haunted by what he has dismissed as "youthful excesses."

Depending on who is interpreting them, these episodes are either a disturbing insight into Bucaram's character or the

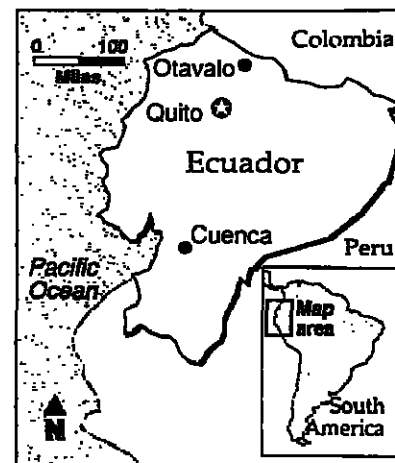
inevitable but harmless consequence of a loquacious politician.

"Like all leaders who have a facility for communications," said the official, "sometimes his behavior is excessive. That is what allows him to impress the masses quickly. ... It's like actors in a theater—you have to accentuate the makeup."

In an earlier presidential campaign, Bucaram urged followers to deface luxury cars as a protest. One foe pointed out that Bucaram, whose source of wealth has been questioned, now owns several luxury cars "and he doesn't like them scratched." He quotes Jesus Christ and South American liberator Simon Bolivar and even Joseph Goebbels, using the Nazi propaganda chief's comment that a lie told a thousand times becomes the truth.

In this campaign, where he was more measured, he got in trouble for saying that Nebot's twin 8-year-old daughters should "take a dip in the lake"—a reference to a notorious case involving the disappearance of two brothers. A claim that Colombian mercenaries had sabotaged his campaign plan proved groundless.

As a judge here, he favored corporal punishment. While mayor of Guayaquil in the 1980s, his comment that the Ecuadorian military got half the budget and only



marched in parades earned him a slander suit and forced him into exile. While in Panama, he was arrested for cocaine possession. The case never went anywhere and Bucaram has always said the drug was planted by political foes—a claim that has gained credence over the last year.

But all of this seemed to matter little to voters, especially his poor backers. ■

JORDAN WEEK

An unconventional report on Jordanian news and views edited by Marwan Al Asmar

IAF, beginning early

Does the Islamic Action Front (IAF) know something we don't? Is the IAF launching its election campaign earlier than usual? Or is it simply that the IAF is seeking to widen its popular base? Whatever the reason we must congratulate their tenacity. Last week, six IAF deputies went to meet the people of Kufranjeh near Irbid. The IAF deputies included: Ahmed Al Kofahi, Mohammad Oweida, Theib Anees, Abd Al Rahim Al Akoor and Deif Allah Al Moumani. Dr Al Oweida was frank. He said the IAF isn't a tribalist or a sectarian party, but one that presents the interest of the nation. He added that the visits to the governorates in the country are part of the responsibility towards serving such interest. He said the aim of the party is to fight for issues that affect the people whether it is against

Oweida

higher prices, taxes or for a better standard of living. He added that the preservation of national unity is essential and what is needed is to safeguard that unity against columnists who would seek to undermine it. As part of their continuing effort to get closer to the people, 10 other IAF deputies visited North Shuna last Wednesday. It seems that while other parties are sitting twiddling their thumbs, the IAF is embarking on a new election strategy, one that is sure to be a major success.

National unity committee

Our newspaper today is filled with talk of "regionalism", a code word to describe the relationship between Jordanians and Palestinians in this country. Such talk and discussions spurned on by the articles of



Shaer

Mohammad Uweidi Al Abbadi, that a number of people have decided to counter-attack. A group of nationalists are now aiming to create a Popular Committee for the Protection of the Nation From Regionalism. Dr Jamal Al Shaer, the man behind the idea, says the purpose of the committee is to confront the people who hold such "silly ideas... and go after limited interests to serve their purposes whether of Palestinian or Jordanian origins." Dr. Shaer said the committee will be formed very shortly and will seek to deliver its message through the media and by holding seminars. The idea is to quash these ideas in their cradle, the physician added.

Faisal charged in lawsuit

Samar Al Oran has won a legal case against deputy Tojan Faisal. The Lower House deputy was sentenced to two-month and was ordered to pay a JD 6000 fine. Faisal announced that she will appeal the court's verdict. Under Jordanian law, deputies enjoy legal immunity only while the Lower House is in session. They become private citizens once the House adjourns. Faisal was charged with libel and defamation of the character of Oran who filed a lawsuit against Faisal for publicly criticizing her marital problems. Oran considered Faisal's comments as slanderous and insulting and decided to sue her. Oran's lawyer, Hussam Zreikat, said that Faisal mentioned in an article that Samar was trying to link her name with important people and then blackmail them to become famous.



Faisal

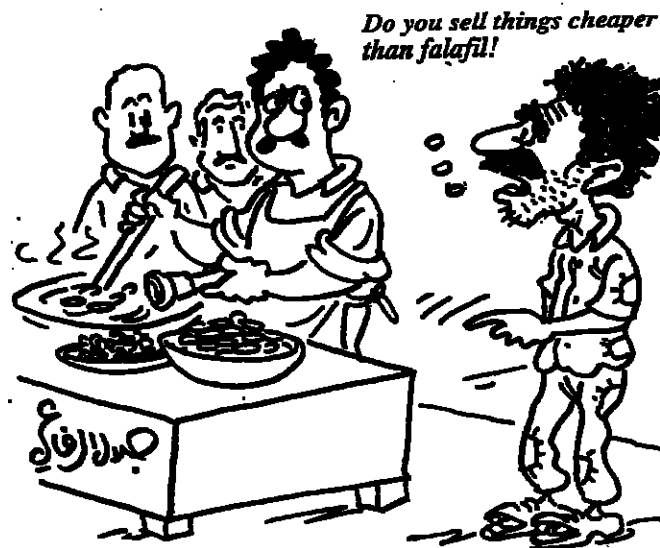
Association has said normalization with Israel is one of the most dangerous aspects of the current peace process. Presenting a study to the meetings of the Arab Union of Engineers in Amman, it warned against the dangers of normalization. This is old news many may argue but the JEA maintains that it is one of the most dangerous because of the Arab deteriorating situation and Israel's superiority. The study added that Israel would seek to impose its economic hegemony on the Arab decision and political will. Israel's peace agreements with the Palestinians and Jordan have clearly been to her favor especially in the fields of agriculture, industry, water and borders. Observers point out that Israel wants to dominate the area in a new Middle East Order. The study said that there are several dangers to normalization: the political, the cultural and the economic. The JEA pointed out that the Jordan-Israeli peace treaty has increased Israel's water share of the Yarmouk River, from 17 million cubic meters to 25 million cubic meters annually.

Rifkind supports land for peace

British Foreign Secretary, Mr Malcolm Rifkind was in Jordan last week where he met His Majesty King Hussein and other top Jordanian officials. He met the King in Aqaba having come directly from Saudi Arabia. "We have of course, a continuing very good warm dialogue with Jordan. I welcomed the opportunity to hear from His Majesty the King and to explain the British position with regard to the peace process—I think we have a very similar view—and of course these were matters that were discussed by Britain along with other countries at the G7 summit in Lyon last weekend and at the European Union summit in Florence the week before," he told Jordan television. On the peace process, he expressed support for the land for peace formula, saying it is

Normalization: No thanks

The Jordanian Engineers



Jalal Rifai/Ad Dastour

New JPA president comes at critical point

Mr Seif Al Sherif, the general manager of Ad Dastour, won a landslide victory in last week's election for the presidency of Jordan's Press Association. A 170 journalists out of 323 that were eligible to vote, balloted for Al Sherif. Mr Khalid Mahadin, a strong contender, only received 75 votes. Mr Faisal Al Shboul and Mr Bassem Sakejha got 42 and 26 votes respectively, while Mr Salah Al Shboul received a mere two votes, his own and a friend. Two ministers were present when the ballots were cast: the Minister of Information, Dr Marwan Al Mousher and Minister of Youth, Deputy Mohammad Dawoudia. Although, many expected a second round, Mr Al Sherif surprised everybody by winning decisively in the first round of balloting. He becomes the 21st president and comes at a time, when the JPA faces tough challenges.



Some argue that Mr Sherif will fight for a more professional JPA.

Muasher outlines subsidy distribution plan

Minister of Information Dr Marwan Muasher has outlined government plan to distribute cash subsidies to offset proposed floating of bread prices. He said the government planned to do the following:

- Citizens registered with the National Aid Fund (lowest income group, around 230,000 people) would be given bread free of charge.
- Citizens who are holders of a Supplies Card (around 3,700,000—almost the entire population) and who take a paycheck from government (civil servants, army, retirees) would get a monthly allowance on their paycheck.
- Citizens who are holders of a Supplies Card but do not receive a paycheck from government (private sector) can present their supplies card to any bank and get their allowances regularly without standing in line.
- Beyond that, any Jordanian who does not have a card (rich, very small minority) and feels he/she wants one, they can get one with no questions asked.

Dr Muasher added that the bread subsidy is going to result in a JD 160 million extra deficit this year.

The Star

Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

Congratulates Mr Seif Al Sherif on his election as President of the Jordan Press Association.



Opposition uses bread issue to put Kabariti government on trial

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this month. In their press conference earlier this week, Islamic deputies openly attacked the government. They warned Mr Kabariti not to tamper with the people's bread but to search for other alternatives. The IAF, which strongly opposes the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, maintains that the treaty brought no benefits to Jordan as the government promised. "The welfare of the people was the excuse the government made to go to the Madrid peace conference and sign the Wadi Araba agreement," deputy Hamza Mansour, the spokesman of the IAF bloc in Parliament, said. Recently however, the govern-

ment "found nothing to say to the people. No fruits and even no water to drink, people are thirsty and water prices are rapidly increasing."

The issue of human rights imposed itself on the scene lately with IAF deputies accusing the government of human rights violations against Islamic activists. Mr Mansour demanded the immediate release of what he described as political detainees. "Prisoners are being tortured in the prisons of the General Intelligence Department," Mansour said. "The IAF demands that the government stop the interference of the security forces in people's lives." Deputies confirmed that the policy of withdrawing five-year passports from people and changing them every two years is still taking place.

The IAF also accused the government of relaxing its efforts in fighting state corruption. Deputies claimed that they have collected two full files

about corruption cases involving abuse of public funds and state lands. "We submitted these files to the Prime Minister, who promised to follow up on them," Zaqra Islamic deputy Dr Bassam Umoush said. "Most of these cases are related to the former minister of interior."

But Islamists are not alone in their criticism of the Kabariti government. Eight opposition parties are adopting the IAF's position against the government. Together they held a press conference on Sunday rejecting government's policies on bread and said the government have not fulfilled its promises.

Centrist parties have joined in the fight, though this time from an opposition stand. They refuse even to negotiate the issue of bread and warn the government of adverse consequences. These parties have long been described as pro-government.

Mr Kabariti will fight for his

survival, observers said. The government may even face a vote of no confidence in the coming extraordinary session. This time the motion may have a winning chance since in addition to the 20-strong opposition deputies, there are many centrist members who have an interest in bringing down the Kabariti government.

Twenty draft laws are expected to be discussed in the coming session, as demanded

by a memo from 45-deputy. Sources said the electoral draft law is not on the agenda as it is still being discussed by the government.

The Illicit Gains draft law is one of the major laws in the upcoming session. Since 1989, the law has been going back and forth between the two legislative houses. To put an end to the controversy, the law will be discussed in a joint session of the Lower and Upper Houses. The draft laws of the Jordan Television and Radio Corp., Petra News Agency and the Press Association will also be on the agenda. ■

Broudy and Green bring out the roots of American culture

AMMAN (Star)—American folklore artists Saul Broudy and Bob Green came to Amman recently to present America's favorite original musical selections in a performance titled "The Roots of American Culture".

Broudy and Green will perform an outdoor concert at the American Embassy today Thursday at 7:00 pm. The concert is co-sponsored by the Fulbright Commission and the Marriott Hotel.

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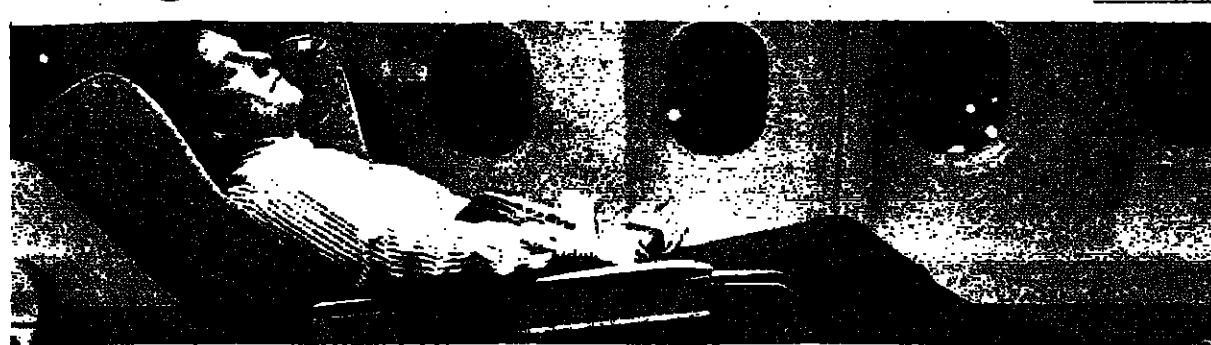
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US military underestimated threat in Saudi Perry says

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Perry didn't object when counter-terrorism funds were reduced from military budgets, and why US commanders in Saudi Arabia were difficult in pressing security concerns with Saudi hosts.

The committee's chairman, Sen. Strom Thurmond, said late Tuesday the testimony showed that "the threats to our forces stationed in Saudi Arabia were underestimated and that actions were not aggressively taken to reduce the vulnerability of our military personnel."

"I'm stunned," Sen. John Warner, said during the hearing of testimony by Gen. JH Binford Peay III, commander of the US Central Command, that he had almost no details on subordinates' conversations with the Saudis about protecting the high-rise in Dhahran. "We're learning today of a failure to bring forward, up through the chain of command... a very serious breakdown" in communications with Saudi officials that endangered US troops. "I assume the president would have been interested," Warner added.

After the Riyadh bombing, an Air Force colonel twice asked mid-level Saudi officials to move a security fence that was 100 feet from Khobar Towers in Dhahran to a distance of 400 feet. "My understanding was the Saudi answer was not a no," Perry said, "but a not now, yet."

But the colonel and one of his superiors, Brig. Gen. Terry Schwallier, didn't refer the perimeter matter to more senior US military or diplomatic figures so they could approach top Saudi officials. Democrats such as Sen. Carl Levin of Michigan established through questioning that Perry, Shalikashvili and Peay had never heard of the Saudi response until after the bombing.

The tanker truck that exploded June 25 was parked just outside the security fence. The administration witnesses emphasized that while the Saudis took no action on the security buffer, they were satisfying 130 other US security concerns at Khobar, such as closing nearby access roads and investigating the license plates of motorists spotted near the compound.

But several senators excoriated the Saudis for failing to act. "We've got to determine the level of cooperation of the Saudi government," Warner said.

Members of the panel also criticized Peay for his defense of the Saudis and his own military subordinates.

Peay said US commanders usually avoid pushing their Saudi hosts because of "intense Saudi sensitivity to issues of their sovereignty," and "cultural" differences. What seems to Americans to be "foot dragging" actually reflects a balkanized bureaucracy committed to "consensus-seeking," he said, adding that Saudis also have "a different sense of time."

Sen. Dirk Kempthorne, replied that "we subordinated our culture to that of our host country, and it cost us." At a separate hearing before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Tuesday, similar criticisms were expressed by Patrick Lang, the principal defense intelligence officer for the Middle East from 1985 to 1992.

Lang said US military leaders have routinely misunderstood how important the US troop presence is to Saudi security, and failed to exert appropriate pressure on the Saudi regime out of "an exaggerated reaction to supposed Saudi cultural differences."

Lang added that as a result, some Saudi officials had doubtless come to view US soldiers as "guest workers" and that US officers probably anticipated that if they complained about the chain of command about Saudi obstinacy, "they would get a very negative response."

US military
underestimates
threat in Saudi
Perry says

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Perry didn't object to counter-terrorism were reduced from 100 to 50 percent, he said. He also said that the testimony of the Saudi military was "very good" and that the Saudi military was "very good" and that the Saudi military was "very good".

The committee's man, Sen. Strom Thurmond, said late in the testimony that the threat to Saudi Arabia was "very good" and that the Saudi military was "very good".

John Warner said the hearing of testimony by Gen. H. H. B. III, commander of the Central Command, had almost no doubt about the Saudi military's ability to handle the threat.

After the hearing, an Air Force official said that the Saudi military was "very good" and that the Saudi military was "very good".

But the witness, Gen. H. H. B. III, said that the Saudi military was "very good" and that the Saudi military was "very good".

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People & Politics



The case of the subsidized loaf of bread

The government's bread policy has breathed life into an otherwise "dead as a board" local political scene. Prime Minister Abdel Karim Kabariti's foray into the deputies' den this week, to explain the government's plan to remove bread subsidies without hurting Jordanians, was also aimed at gauging the political mood under the dome, as Parliament wakes up from a summer slumber to prepare for an extraordinary session.

Naturally, the Prime Minister was prepared for the less-than-welcome reception that he received from the deputies who could not appear to their electorate as sympathizing with or condoning government's motives for floating the price of wheat every Jordanian considers as the most sacred of things: the loaf of bread. But Mr. Kabariti made a good presentation, albeit confusing at times, especially when it appeared that the population of cattle, allegedly being fattened on subsidized bread, is almost the same as the country's human population. He talked about subsidies going the wrong way: namely to cattle farmers, tourists and guest workers. And he put the deputies in the larger picture regarding Jordan's obligations towards the international financial institutions with regard to the need to adhere to the budget law without having to borrow, to close the deficit.

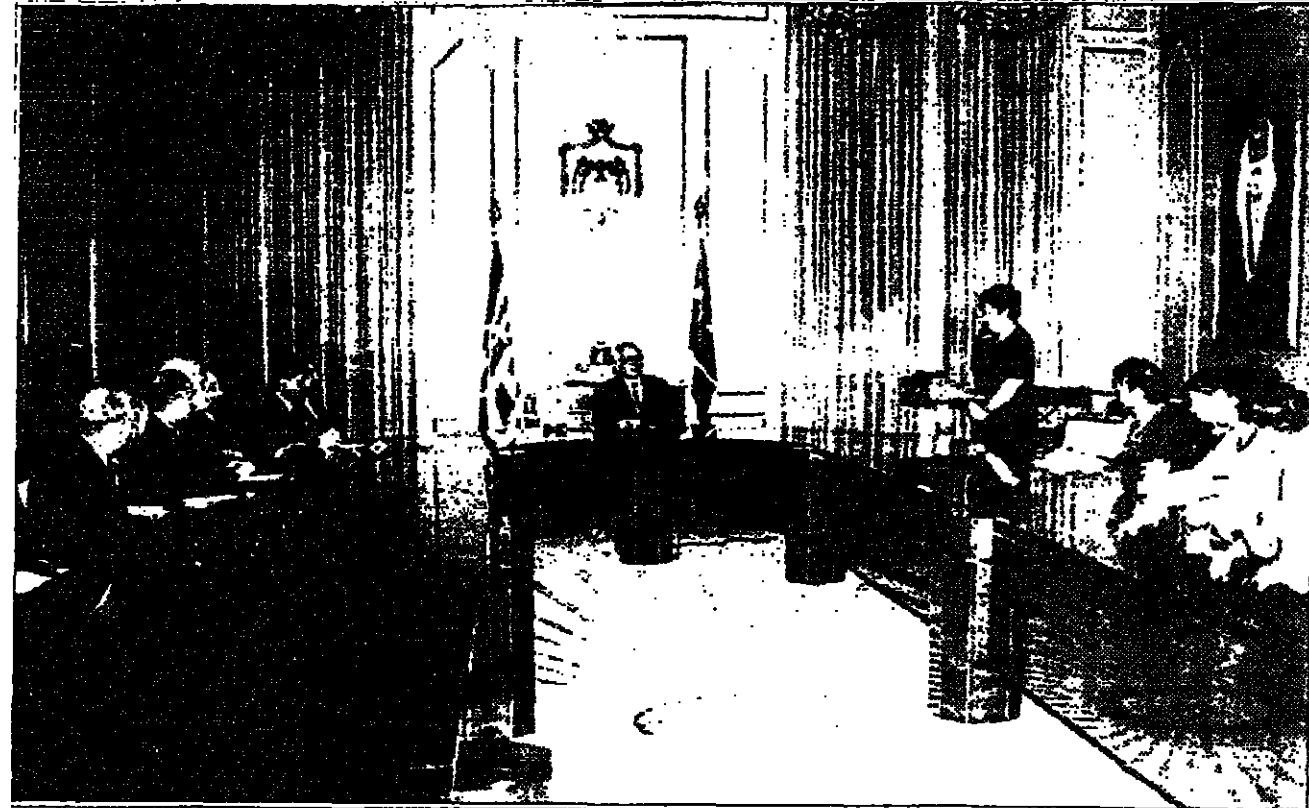
The deputies were more predictable in their diatribe. They warned Mr. Kabariti that Jordanians had already sacrificed enough and that any additional burden on their shoulders, the citizens that is, could lead to public instability. The Premier was unimpressed, it appears. He showed the deputies that his feathers were not about to be ruffled, especially that he had promised that Jordanians, rich and poor, will not be affected by the removal of the subsidy. He said that Jordanians will be paid about JD 15 annually to offset the floating of the price of bread, but failed to explain how more than four million Jordanians will receive this grant. The citizens are first to remind Mr. Kabariti and his staff, of the failure of the coupon distribution system. But the Premier promised that no standing in line will be required and that all Jordanians will be entitled to receive the cash handout.

What Mr. Kabariti, who knows on which side his bread is buttered on, also failed to address is how much of the economic adjustment program did Jordan complete and the current status of other regulatory measures that should have been adopted long ago. Mr. Kabariti's supply side economics is coming under criticism because of its high social costs. Notwithstanding deputies' fears and anxieties, and since we are drawing closer to an election year, the fact that Jordanians are today deprived of a social security system that works in their favor, a national health insurance scheme that they were promised on many occasions, salary hikes that could lessen the effects of a rising cost of living, all of these facts have to be taken into account when looking into economic reforms.

It was interesting that Mr. Kabariti bashed previous governments for not following the economic adjustment program. That was bold of him to admit. In fact, Mr. Kabariti may have thrown out of the window a diplomatic norm that has survived for many decades. An incoming prime minister never speaks badly of an outgoing, or former, prime minister.

Mr. Kabariti knows only too well that the bread issue is turning into a political minefield—although he deserves the benefit of the doubt with regards to his promise that Jordanians will not be affected by a rise in bread prices. What he should strive to do is to stop making promises that he can't keep. That's bad politics. Remember the promise Mr. Kabariti made to anxious, and now angry and disappointed, APM traders three months ago? He said that he would ask the CBI to reduce interest rates in June so that life could come back to the stock market. Well, traders are still waiting.

On the other hand, Jordanians have every right to ask the government to issue a white paper clarifying ambiguities about the limits of the economic adjustment program. The people will be willing to make sacrifices if they see the government doing the same.



His Majesty King Hussein meets an American pro-peace delegation at the Royal Court, Tuesday. The King said peace in the Middle East is a reality which can't be reversed. What is required now is comprehensive peace. People of this region now have to experience the fruits of peace, he added. The meeting was attended by the Prime Minister Abdel Karim Kabariti.

Ghassan Al Jundi, an expert in international law 'Arabs must have foresight and be more forward looking'

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Ghassan Al Jundi is a prominent expert on international law. An academic at the University of Jordan, he now teaches at the Institute of Diplomacy. Dr. Al Jundi, who was a member of the Jordanian peace delegation, remains active in research, writing widely on international law. He has six books to his name and over 50 academic articles. The Star's Marwan Al Asmar and Oroub Al Abed talked to Dr. Al Jundi on the latest Arab summit and the peace process. Excerpts follow:

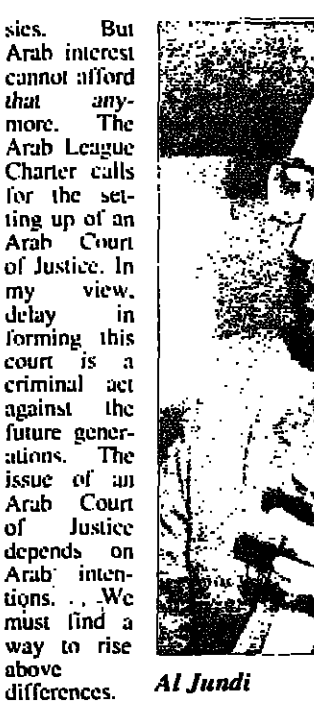
What's after the Arab summit, which convened in Cairo last month, and how is it going to affect the peace process?

The Arab summit was a chance for Arab leaders to meet and reconcile in order to face the challenges posed by the election of Benjamin Netanyahu. Now we need to know if Netanyahu will continue the peace process. It is ironic that the Israeli elections have forced the Arab leaders to pay more attention to national welfare rather than being separated and divided.

So was reconciliation achieved at the summit and what is to be followed?

There must be regular meetings between Arab leaders. Ministers of the European Union meet 24 times a year whereas, in the Arab League, Arab ministers rarely meet once a year. Even when they do meet, we get the feeling that they don't want to achieve anything. Until now, the Arabs are behaving on the basis of reactions: Arabs must have foresight and be more forward looking.

Arab leaders are used to solving their differences by kissing and exchanging courtesies.



Al Jundi

But Arab interest cannot afford that any more. The Arab League Charter calls for the setting up of an Arab Court of Justice. In my view, delay in forming this court is a criminal act against the future generations.

The issue of an Arab Court of Justice depends on Arab intentions. We must find a way to rise above differences.

What should the Arabs do now to save the peace process?

I think that Arabs must be active in the peace process and determine what they want without giving Israel the chance to dominate or have the upper hand. There should be a schedule for the normalization process tied to developments on the ground. For example, if Israel withdraws from Hebron, we shall take a step forward in normalization, if Netanyahu meets Arafat, we can add another step and so on. But, for the time being we have to stop normalization and wait to see what the Netanyahu government will do with the peace process.

What about the Syrian-Israeli peace talks. Do you think they will resume?

The Syrian-Israeli peace talks have been on hold since

28 February. Shimon Peres has managed to dim the lights, so to speak, of the peace process, while Netanyahu put it off completely. I expect that Israel will, as expected, play a major role in the outcome of the American elections this year. President Clinton will suffer from a "guilt complex" for supporting Peres against Netanyahu in the elections. Thus he will have to come out now and lend his support to the new government in Israel. The first example of this is Clinton's decision to reject the reelection of Butros Ghali as UN secretary general. This decision was taken to satisfy the Jewish lobby which criticized Ghali's report on the Qana massacre.

But Netanyahu declared that he will maintain the peace process.

There has to be changes on the ground. I mean Israeli

troops are still in Hebron, and this is an important indication about Netanyahu's intentions and commitments to the peace process. Netanyahu claims his government is not obliged to commitments of the previous government. Can he afford to do this without derailing the peace process?

Could Jordan have a role in opening the road for the peace process to march ahead?

The Jordanian role aims at bringing points of view between the Arab world and Israel closer to each other. But there are limits to what Jordan can do. Despite the fact that Jordan's Prime Minister met with Shimon Peres and asked him to announce a ceasefire in Lebanon, the latter refused. It seems that Jordan has good relations with Netanyahu, but if he insists on carrying out his policy, then Jordan's role will be limited.

Jordan has signed a peace treaty with Israel, yet there are some issues that remain unsolved like Jerusalem and the refugees. Was it a wise move on Jordan's part to move so fast?

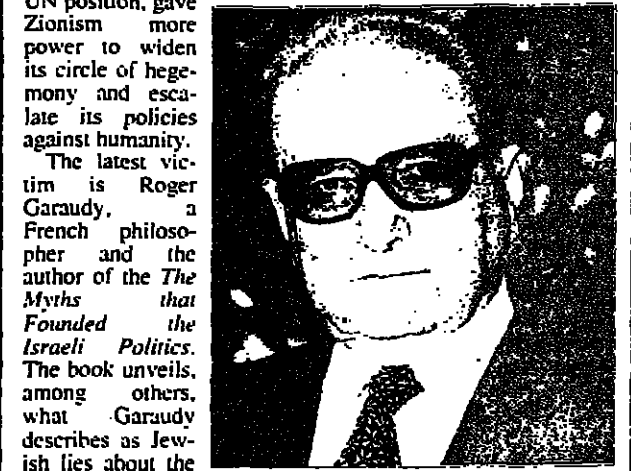
This is why I disagree with the Oslo accords. The most important and urgent issues were left to the final stages, such as Jerusalem, the settlements and the refugees. When will we have time to address these issues? Talks were due to start in May of this year. But I think no progress will be made on these issues. Even with regards to Jordan, there are some unresolved issues such as the new Aqaba airport, water supply to Jordan and environmental issues such as potential danger from the nuclear reactor in Demona.

Point of order

By Raed Al Abed

Roger Garaudy: A cry for justice

In 1975 the United Nations General Assembly ratified a resolution equating Zionism with racism. In 1992, the same assembly had to eat up its resolution. Zionism, with the help of the US and Europe, imposed its power on the UN and succeeded in killing the resolution. This radical change in the UN position, gave Zionism more power to widen its circle of hegemony and escalate its policies against humanity.



The latest victim is Roger Garaudy, a French philosopher and author of 'The Myths' that Founded the Israeli Politics. The book unveils, among others, what Garaudy describes as Jewish lies about the Holocaust.

The book moved Jewish communities around the globe, as it rang a bell awakening the world on how Zionism exploited a historical lie, called the Holocaust, to gain international sympathy for the Jews, which later helped gather them in what they claimed to be the 'promised land' in Palestine. Zionism succeeded in making Jews the 'chosen people' after manipulating the West.

Time to refute the Zionist claims. This is what Garaudy is trying to say. Unfortunately, he is being isolated, with official and unofficial attacks being directed against him. He has become the No. 1 wanted man by Zionists all over Europe and the US.

Garaudy is facing trial in France under the Gayssaud Law of 1990. This law was imposed by Jewish communities in Europe to repress those who dare refute the Zionist claims about the Holocaust. Zionism is terrorizing the West with 'anti-semitic' hogwash.

The philosopher presented historically documented facts, quoting Jewish documents and historians who found Zionism to be the reason behind all the tragedies of Jews. The annihilation of Jews in areas that were occupied by the Nazis, is not true, Garaudy points out. Annihilation in French means the utter death of a group or a nation, he says. The second issue is that while the Jews claim that six million Jews had perished in the Holocaust, Jewish chronicles state that there were only 3.5 million Jews in all the areas which were controlled by the Nazis. After the victory of the Allied forces over the Axis powers during the World War II, they received tons of documents—none of these mentioned the subject of the annihilation of Jews or the alleged massacres against them, as Garaudy states in his book.

The West which backed Salman Rushdie's *Satanic Verses*, is now repressing the right of Garaudy to publish his and some are even threatening his life. This is the West that spent millions of dollars to protect the life of Rushdie from the Iranian fatwa. The same West discovered that its democracy is unable to accommodate the concept of freedom of expression when it deals with Zionist claims.

Garaudy's book does not insult Jews, on the contrary it considers them as victims of the insane ideas of Zionism, which cooperated with Nazis to repress and transfer them from Europe to the holy land, Palestine.

The case of Garaudy shows that Zionism could close the door on anyone who contradicts their claims and policies. The bitter fact is that the West is weak to protect itself from the hegemony of Zionism.

The Star
Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

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After meeting Clinton, Netanyahu yields no ground on Israeli-Arab issues

Continued from page 1

will "pursue the peace process with vigor," but he added, "There was an election in Israel. The Israeli people made a decision. Part of that decision was to take a different approach to the peace process. ... Israel is a democracy. They made that decision. The prime minister has very strong views."

Senior administration officials made little effort to paper over the clear differences in approach to Middle East peace issues that separated Netanyahu and Clinton, but sought to put a hopeful face on them.

"Are there some tensions or potential tensions? No question," one senior official said. "But if you had just been elected and knew the world would be watching to see if you blink in your first meeting with the big boys, you would send a tough message, too. ... I don't think either side is highly threatened by the fact that there are differences of perspective."

Both American and Israeli reporters Tuesday limited themselves to questions about the Middle East, where the Clinton administration has invested a huge amount of political capital and clearly

favoured the reelection of Shimon Peres over Netanyahu.

Asked by an Israeli reporter if he had explained his support for Peres to Netanyahu, Clinton replied, "I don't think it needed that much explaining." Netanyahu helped him out by cutting in to say, "Mr. President, we didn't discuss the election results."

Netanyahu and his political allies on the Israeli right have a fundamentally different view of the Arabs from that of their Labor predecessors, Peres and the late Yitzhak Rabin. They doubt that the Arabs—other than Jordan and possibly Egypt—have fully reconciled themselves to Israel's existence, and they are thus wary of the



Clinton and Netanyahu meeting in Washington this week

"land for peace" trade that has been the foundation of all Middle East negotiations since Israel seized the West Bank from Jordan, the Golan Heights from Syria and the Sinai peninsula from Egypt in 1967.

Netanyahu said, as much

Tuesday as Clinton stood impassively at his side.

"I think we need a new way of thinking about relations between peoples and about relations with each other," Netanyahu said. "Our neighbors' children will accept and

will learn to live with our children when they are taught that Israel is an integral, legitimate part of the region and that it is here to stay."

The clear implication of this comment was that this fundamental change of attitude—described by the late Egyptian president Anwar Sadat, the first Arab leader to make peace with Israel, as the necessary "psychological breakthrough" to peace—has not occurred among the Palestinians and certainly not in Syria.

As a result, Netanyahu said, Israelis now "have our own interpretation of 'land for peace'." ... Does fairness require that Israel yield 100 percent and the Arab side zero percent? And will we have secure boundaries on the 1967 borders? Well, obviously we think differently.

According to State Department and White House officials, the Clinton administration's Middle East strategy from the beginning has been to shower Israel with so much military, economic and political support that Israel would feel comfortable in taking risks—such as giving up control of the Golan Heights—for peace.

Clinton signaled Tuesday that that strategy remains in

place, saying that he had told Netanyahu when they first met in 1992 that "our contribution should be to minimize the risks to Israel of making peace, so that Israel could have the confidence necessary to make a peace that will last. I still believe that. That's why our commitment to Israel's security is rock solid, why we'll continue to do what is necessary to ensure Israel's qualitative edge" over its Arab neighbors.

In advance of Tuesday's meeting, a group of 150 US rabbis wrote to Clinton urging him to threaten to cut off economic aid to Israel if the Netanyahu government expands Jewish settlement activity in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The same letter, organized by the Jewish Peace Lobby, said that the United States should end assistance to the Palestinian Authority if it fails to fight vigorously against terrorism.

When Clinton was asked about the letter, he replied only that the Palestinian Authority seemed to be making progress against terrorism. He ignored the letter's call for pressure on Netanyahu to stop expanding settlements that Washington has long regarded as an obstacle to peace.




Travesty of justice

Bringing Karadzic and Mladic, and others, to justice is an important boost to the work of the International Criminal Tribunal. Its ability to pass judgment on war criminals should remind those who believe they can use ethnic cleansing as a mean to a political end to think again. The heavy price that thousands of innocent victims had paid in Bosnia must remind us all that justice cannot survive if the world community does not provide the means to protect it. Passing judgment on Karadzic while he sits freely in Pale is a travesty of justice and an insult to those who perished at his orders. ■ -

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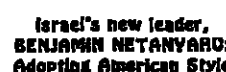
Letters to the editor: Will be edited for brevity, must contain name and address of sender.

"One question Clinton should ask Netanyahu is: What is the difference between your plan and apartheid? If the Palestinians will have only civil rights and no national rights, if there will continue to be two legal systems governing two kinds of citizens—one for Israelis living in the territories and one for Palestinians there, then how is this different than pre-Mandela South Africa?"

is no guarantee that the Hamas will remain silent, however it does mean that Arafat and his regime will continue to cooperate with the Israelis in fighting against it.



...that they
would enter
into treaties
with other coun-
tries? It is that the
Palestinians
would control their
own borders and



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Palestine Center for Research and Information, a joint Israeli-Palestinian-public policy think-tank located in Jerusalem. This article was written on the eve of Netanyahu's visit to the US. ■

precedent for the lesser partners in the coalition, to push for their own demands and form their own alliances to exert pressure on Mr Netanyahu to implement a variety of policies, some of

Dr. Gershon Baskin is the Director of the Israel/Palestine Center for Research and Information, a joint Israeli-Palestinian public policy think-tank located in Jerusalem. This article was written on the eve of Netanyahu's visit to the US. ■

Sharon is unmasked

The reaction of the rest of the world was so great that finally the Israelis were compelled to retreat (though of

the Palestinians and the British out of Palestine) and who, when he died, officially still was listed on Britain's "Most Wanted" list for having master-



Both Netanyahu and Sharon are on record in the past as say-

can hang its head in shame as we all witness the failure to grab the golden ring of peace as the carousel of the Middle East spins further and further out of

not particularly favourable. Therefore the next step of the negotiations is likely to prove to be most precarious.

Business scene

■ The Finance Minister, Marwan Awad said that Jordan's debt to France is now being converted into foreign investment programs. He told Petra that France approved writing off Fr 325 million (\$65 million) to investment programs to be carried out in Jordan.

■ Revenues of the services companies reached JD 177 million in 1995. The Jordan Electricity Co. (JEC), took 53% of total revenues, at JD 94.2 million. The profit of these companies' operations was JD 16.7 million, representing 9.4% of total earnings. About 11 companies distributed dividends of JD 8.8 million, of which the Marriott Hotel, JEC, International For Education and the Marine Corp., took 72%.

■ The planning department of Investment Encouragement Corp., has drawn up a list of 224 investment projects. Chosen for their economic efficiency, the projects cost 290,500,461. They would create 7,663 jobs. There are 15 projects worth JD 41,715,000 in foodstuff manufacturing, creating 132 jobs. In chemical industry, there are 17 projects worth JD 13,976 million, creating 202 jobs.

■ The 1995 assets of the Jordan Petroleum Refinery reached JD 330.54 million. This is an increase of nearly 14% on 1994. Traded assets were JD 295.47, increase of more than 15%. Fixed assets were up by 2.25% to reach JD 26.84 million. The company's net sales were valued at JD 464.79 million in 1995, a rise of 6.09% on 1994. Other revenues were JD 1.30 million. Total expenditure was JD 25.86 million, an increase of 2.68% on 1994. JPR net profits was JD 6.55 million in 1995, an increase of 32.45% for 1994. It's paid up capital is JD 32 million.

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Foreign Exchange		
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	Buy JD	Sell JD
US\$	0.7080	0.7100
£	1.0990	1.1045
DM	0.4639	0.4662
SEK	0.5606	0.5634
FRF	0.1370	0.1377
YEN	0.6399	0.6431
DEU	0.4133	0.4145
LYD	0.0462	0.0464

Political cooperation stressed at economic conference

By Mohammad Adawiya
Special to The Star

A TWO-day conference entitled "Regional Economic Cooperation in the Mediterranean" ended Tuesday with participants highlighting the importance of economic and political inter and intra regional cooperation.

The conference, organized by the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Foundation, brought together participants from Jordan, Turkey, Egypt, Tunisia, and Germany to present and discuss papers on the future of Euro-Mediterranean economic

relations as well as economic and political cooperation within the Arab world.

"Peace is undoubtedly the key for any real progress towards regional cooperation," says Mr Khemais Jhinaoui of Tunisia. In his paper "The Political Dialogue in the Middle East and its Impact on the Economies of the Region," Mr Jhinaoui stresses the importance and interdependence of economics and politics in the region. "Business leaders could bring a decisive contribution to the political stability...by generating investments, joint ventures, and business alliances," the Tunisian representative

adds, explaining that political concerns are still a major force to be dealt with in the region.

The conference, organized in cooperation with the Al-Urdun Al-Jadid Research Center and held under the patronage of the Minister of Trade and Industry Mr Ali Abu Ragheb, also highlighted the need for closer relations with the western world. "The domestic economic and social conditions in Jordan are not as good as they ought to be...[and] necessitates the maintenance of active communication lines with the USA, Europe, Japan, etc.," according to Mr Jawad Anani, a Jordanian economic expert at the conference.



ence. According to Mr Anani, western nations are taking an active role in the region's economic performance "for the protection of peace."

At the second day of the conference, Jordanian economist Mr Riad Al-Khouri, and owner of local economic consulting firm stressed the susceptibility of the region's economy, particularly that of Jordan, to political events. "Peace will promote business," Mr Khouri explained, adding that the fragility of the current peace is not conducive to economic prosperity. Nevertheless, Mr Khouri was optimistic over the closer relations with Europe explaining that the European relationship can directly and indirectly place much needed pressure on Jordan to organize its internal affairs. Among the important changes which Mr Khouri believes must be brought about

is the issue of privatization. Referring to the tourism and transport sectors specifically, Mr Khouri believes that government involvement in these areas needs to be significantly reduced if not eliminated. He cited the fact that the Jordanian government has major holdings in major hotels in the country as well as ownership of the national air carrier Royal Jordanian, as examples of the extent to which the government is involved in the tourism and transport industries.

Participants of the two day conference recognized that numerous challenges exist in implementing the political and economic changes needed for achieving prosperity. Most, however, believe that through political dialogue within the region, and economic cooperation with the west, prosperity can be attained.

Euromoney awards HSBC Group Trade Finance

HSBC group, of which the British Bank of the Middle East is a principal member, have been awarded the Best Trade Documentation Bank by the readers of Project Finance, published by Euromoney. The award was made following a poll of the magazine's readership, many of whom are businessmen using the Trade and Project Financing services of the Group.

The Chief Executive of HSBC, Mr JRH Bond, said: "We are delighted to receive this award ahead of so many other international banks. The award bears testimony to the high service standards of our Trade Services staff across the Group and to those involved in systems supporting the business. 'The challenge now is to remain number one.'"

With more than 3,300 offices in 72 countries and assets of over USD 352 billion, HSBC Holdings plc is one of the world's largest banking and financial services organizations. Among the other principal members of the HSBC Group are Hongkong Bank in Asia, Midland Bank in Europe and Marine Midland Bank in the United States of America.

Korea Product Show exhibits latest in technology

AMMAN (Star)—CARS, TELEVISIONS, stereos, refrigerators, it's all there. The Korean Products Show, '96, has just opened in Amman displaying the latest in Korean technology. Sponsored by the Korean Trade Center in Amman and organized by the Universal Expo Center, the aim of the product show is to acquaint Jordanians and companies in this country with Korean industrial products.

The Korean Ambassador in Amman, Mr Oh Jung Il, who officially opened the one-week event said the product show in Amman has become an annual occasion to emphasize the close cooperation between Korea and Jordan. He said that Korean products are becoming more popular in Jordan.

Daewoo cars for instance form 25 percent of the Jordanian car market. But cars are not the only things that are exhibited. There are tires, batteries and spareparts



objective of many states. Many more Korean companies have come to set up regional offices in Jordan. The aim of these offices is to seek and set up joint ventures with local Jordanian companies as presently exists with Goldstar and Samsung.

Korean products in Jordan are seen very reliable and very popular. Korea exported goods and products to Jordan worth \$141 million in 1995. These consisted of electronics, cars, spareparts and clothes in 1995. However, Jordanian exports to Korea were \$50 million; these include potash, phosphate and Dead Sea salt.

With a per capita income of \$10,000, Korea is the world's sixth largest manufacturer in cars, the second in shipbuilding, and the number one in computer chips. Contrary to popular belief, Korea's industry development has centered on its heavy and chemical industries. Today, Korea has a trade balance of \$260 billion making her the 12th largest trader in the world. And this is precisely because Korea has been concentrating on its promotional exports. The Korea Trade Investment promotion Center (KOTRA) has been created for such a purpose. It is also involved in commodity development, industrial research, trade fairs and project research. The Korea Trade Center in Amman exists as a contact point between Jordanian and Korean businessmen.

Al Lawzi says peace creates new investment environment

AMMAN (Star)—Privatization seems to be the hallmark of the Kabarti government. Public transport is not going to be let off. The Aqaba Railways and the Public Transport Corp., maybe the first two chunks to go along that road. But before implementation, it will have to be approved by Lower House.

The Minister of Transport, Nasir Al Lawzi said the delay in the implementation of the Jordanian-Israeli transport agreement was due to obstacles from the public and private sectors. It took 15 months of negotiations, he added.

Al Lawzi said we need not worry about competition from the Israeli El Al airline. He added El Al will not compete with Royal Jordanian since the two have signed an air agreement.

El Al is not able to compete on routes to the Far East. RJ already flies to such routes. If it wants to open such a route El Al must add an additional three hours to each flight from Israel to the Far East. El Al has to take into account the high freight and ticket costs.

He did say that El Al will compete with RJ on its European and American routes, but even then there are other airlines such as KLM and the British Airways who are already established in this field.

RJ is planning to increase its paid up capital and attract more investors. Mr Al Lawzi went to talk about other transport issues. He said that there is a new Metro project at a cost of \$65 million that is under study. The line starts from the oil refinery in Zarka, connecting Al Russeifeh, Al Mahanah, Hashimiyah Square, Abdali, going through the Interior Circle and on to Sweileh.

Officials are working to finalize the project by inviting private companies and investors to cover finance, construction, design, operating the line and maintenance. The peace accord with Israel

Business Chronicle

Guns or butter

BETWEEN 1989 and 1995 the Jordanian dinar has drastically depreciated in value, with a 40 percent depreciation in 1989 alone. This fact may not be too surprising. After all, the press has covered it persistently, and it's a safe bet that the average Jordanian household has felt the ramifications of a weaker currency in one way or another. A fact that may have escaped the media, however, and possibly government officials for that matter, is that during this same period, defense expenditures as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) has increased by over 43 percent. Agreeably, the connection between the two may appear to be a bit distant at best. A closer look however, may just reveal an interesting picture.

Economic studies predict that a higher defense expenditures should result in a relatively stronger local currency. Briefly put, the reasoning proceeds as follows. Increased defense spending implies a relatively higher level of security. This higher security, in turn, leads to increased investment in the country, and ultimately to higher interest rates and a stronger currency. Some call it a safe-haven investment strategy, while others call it a relative security hypothesis. The end result however, is the same: rational investors will tend to act in a manner as to be risk averse and thus invest their funds in relatively safe environments.

With this in mind, we tend to observe the opposite occurring in Jordan. As mentioned earlier, defense spending, as a percentage of GDP, is increasing dramatically, yet the currency appears to be getting weaker in value. One possible explanation for this is that investors may be viewing increasing defense expenditures as a sign of less security and thus greater instability—both of which are not conducive to a healthy and attractive investment climate. Regardless of the reasons, however, the fact of the matter is that the Jordanian economy, like many in the region, is very sensitive and susceptible to shocks caused by political strife.

Ironically, Jordan may have been viewed by potential investors as less of a security threat prior to the peace agreement than it is today. The reason may lie in the fact that relative to being in a state of war, Jordan was reasonably secure, being free of any warfare for approximately 30 years. Today however, investors view Jordan as being relatively insecure considering that it is in a state of peace. Investor expectations appear to have been over-optimistic regarding the peace process, and thus any destabilizing event seems to be over-amplified and read as a possible end to the peace process.



Lawzi

had created new fields for investment in transport sector. One example is Al Salam Airport in Aqaba that is expected to service regional tourism in Jordan, Egypt, Israel and other states. The engineers are looking to the Geneva Airport model for final design.

The construction of the airport will be carried out inside Aqaba. An additional runway will be built and provide services for Israel and Jordan at fixed schedule. This will set the scene for the more than the 1.5 million passengers that are expected to visit the region annually.

Project supervisors are awaiting donations from the US or other states for the final designs of "Al Salam Airport." Its total cost is estimated at \$100 million.

Transporting phosphate to Aqaba requires constructing a railway or connecting the phosphate mines with the Aqaba railway.

Since Al Sheidiyah phosphate mine is not linked to Aqaba railway, there is a project under execution for linking it at a cost of \$20 million. This will be completed in three years and will transport half of the phosphate production (five million tons), the remainder will be carried through land transit.

Mr Al Lawzi also said that a new railway will be built between Amman, Irbid and Al-Mafraq, all the way to the Syrian borders and Haifa.

New Saudi group in Amman

THE SAUDI Meri Bin Mahfouz and Ahmed Al Amoudi Group chose Amman as its regional headquarters, said Mr Abdalla Bin Mahfouz, the director general of the group. In a press conference, he added that Jordan was chosen because it a greater marketing environment and has highly qualified businessmen.

Mr Emad Abdul Hadi was appointed as the regional director of the group in Jordan. Their offices in Amman will be responsible for marketing the group's products to other countries in the region and its "annual revenues are expected to exceed JD 5 million. Mr Abdallah said the new economic measures adopted by the Jordanian government to attract investors were another incentive for the group to launch its products from Jordan. "The economic agreement recently signed between Jordan and Saudi Arabia exempts some products from custom dues," he added.

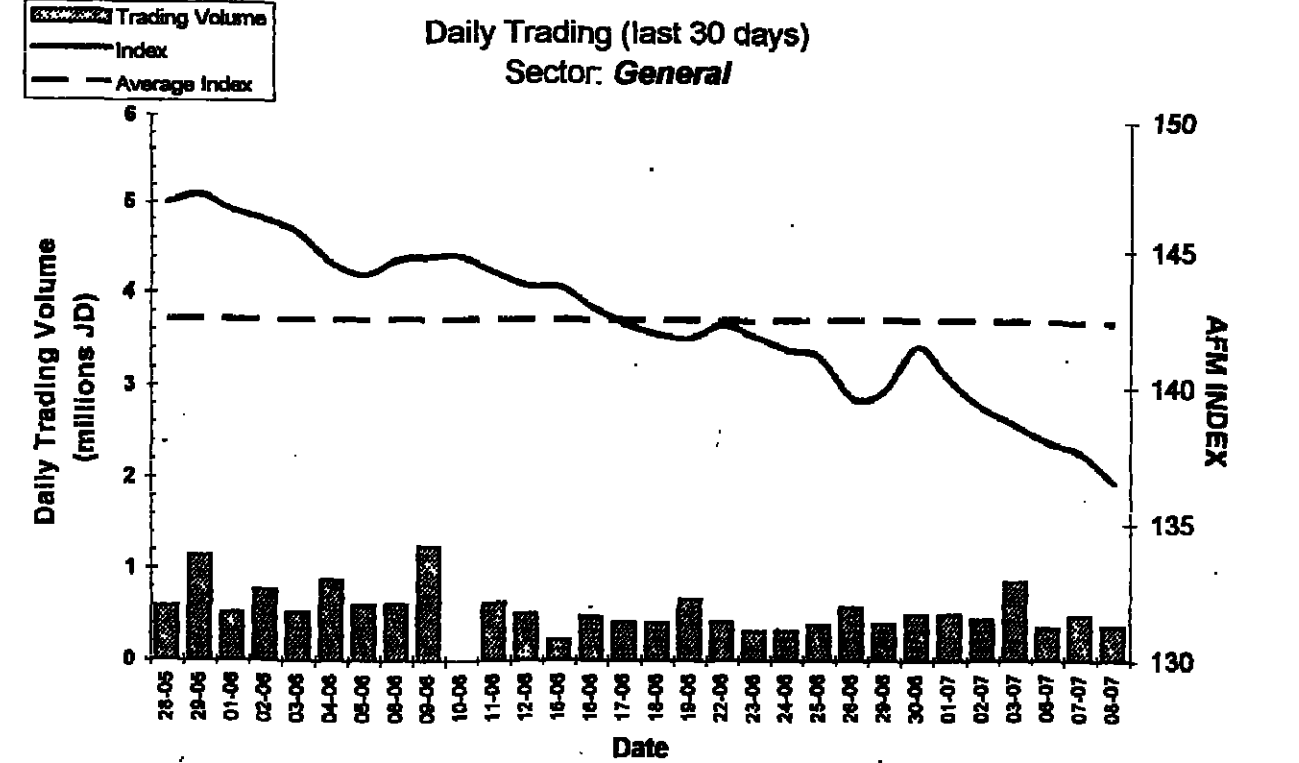
The group trades in construction materials, sanitary ware, petroleum products, gold, Jewels, air conditioning systems, auto spare parts etc. In 1994, total sales of the group reached 400 million Saudi riyals. Mr Abdallah affirmed that the group is planning to build a joint Jordanian-Saudi plastic plant in Saudi Arabia and an iron plant in Jordan.

MARKET WATCH 6-9 JULY

Highest and lowest performing stocks in the Amman Financial Market

SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Arab Pharm. Center	3.85	Jordan Tobacco & Cig	5.02	Jordan Rock Wool Indust.	4.81	Middle East Complex	5.45
Public Investment	0.77	Middle East complex	3.57	Jordan Ceramics	2.65	Rafia Plastic	2.86
El-Zay Ready Wear	0.56	Zarga Education & Invest.	2.08	Union for Cigarettes	2.63	Intermediate Petro-Chemicals	2.78
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
Arab medical Equipment	5.56	Arab Financial Investment	3.08	Middle East Bank	5.21	Ahlia Trade Centers	5.19
Ahlia Trade Centers	5.58	United Chemical Indust.	5.04	National Industry	5.56	Arab Financial Investment	3.84
Universal Chemicals	5.08	Ahlia Trade Centers	4.71	Middle East Complex	5.40	International Ceramics	2.53
General Price Pointer	137.960		137.618		136.520		135.980
Trade Volume	482004		574432		762238		1231318
Stock Volume	485488		525873		913752		2000126
Highest Traded Stocks							
Arab Bank	61.660	Arab bank	68.780	Middle East Complex	337.263	Middle East Complex	427.758

All data provided by ACCESS Tel: 646868 Fax: 646949



Palestine Post

Closure leads to gross losses for Palestinian and Israeli economies

■ The Israeli press stressed that the closures imposed on the West Bank and Gaza caused enormous losses for both the Palestinian and Israeli economies.

The daily *Yedioth Ahronot*, said that the closure imposed on the Palestinian territories failed in more than one way and led to gross losses for the Israeli and Palestinian economies. The daily called for the lifting of the closure since it is not doing anybody any good, least of all security.

Ha'aretz daily said that "the siege imposed by the Israeli government cost too much and is becoming a burden on the new government." The paper said Knesset and members of the security services are quite worried about the situation. The paper called for the immediate lifting of the security zone, arguing it has not served its objectives, but could lead to more violence on the Palestinian occupied territories because of the worsening economic situation.

Palestinian-Egyptian protocol in health and medicine

■ The Palestinian Health Minister, Dr Riyadh Al Za'noon and the Egyptian Health Minister, Dr Ismael Salam signed a protocol for cooperation in health and medicine between Egypt and the Palestine National Authority (PNA).

Under the protocol the Egyptian Ministry of Health agrees to meet the needs of its Palestinian counterpart that includes staffing hospitals in the PNA and occupied areas.

Palestinian technicians and doctors will be trained in all specializations by the Egyptian Ministry of Health.

The protocol binds the two sides to exchange data, methods and expertise between the scientific institutes and nursing schools. Palestinian doctors are now allowed teach in Egyptian medical schools.

UNRWA financed 2216 projects in Gaza

■ The United Nations Works and Relief Agency said it has provided funding for 2216 projects in the Gaza Strip. The aim of these projects is to alleviate the worsening economic situation, create new jobs and increase income.

Finance of the productive sectors, especially the industrial ones, aim at executing new ventures to reach 351 at \$7,232,000. Average loans is \$20,000. Loans given for women's projects since 1994, were 1495 at an estimated \$2 million. Quick operating loans were granted especially to those who are owners of shops or small workshops.

European loan of \$36 million for PNA

■ The European Investment Bank granted the Palestinian National Authority a \$36 million loan to finance projects carried out by the Palestinian Water Authority. The 30 million European Currency Unit is allocated to improve water distribution networks in Gaza and the West Bank.

Total costs of investment in this project are estimated to reach 70 million ECUs. The remainder of this aid is to be financed by the World Bank and other banks. The project will improve living standards to more than 900,000 Palestinians and will protect precious water resources.

Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Nablus

■ The Committee for Palestinian-Israeli Dialogue organized a meeting between Palestinians and Israelis at the headquarters of the Palestinian Women's Union Association in Nablus.

The meeting, which was attended by 18 Israelis and 18 Palestinians, called for the promotion of dialogue on issues relating to the peace process, and evaluated the performance of the PNA on the political, economic and social levels. They also discussed the closure of the Palestinian territories and its effects on society. They called for more meetings in future to support the Israeli-Palestinian peace concept.

Appeal for Gaza workers

■ The unemployment situation in Gaza is so bad that the Director of the Employment and Resources Dep't., at the Palestinian Ministry of Labor, Mr Said Al Mudallal appealed to the Israeli authorities to allow workers to re-enter Israel.

The number of workers that are currently licensed to work in Israel is 11,750 for Gaza: 7846 for construction work, 1018 for manufacturing and services, 2414 for agriculture and 472 for other activities. Other laborers given permits to work in Israel from the West Bank is 8200.

By Nicholas Goldberg
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia—Every Tuesday night, Crown Prince Abdullah, the heir to the throne of this desert kingdom, opens the doors of his court to any of his subjects with a problem.

It's a tradition left over from the days when Bedouin chieftains ruled from their tents in the sand. But times have changed. Saudi Arabia has 17 million people, and Abdullah now holds court from a magnificent palace on the Red Sea.

Last week in a haze of burning incense, surrounded by tribal leaders, Islamic holy men and sword-bearing security guards, he listened to a long line of petitioners, gave out about a million Saudi Rials to help solve their problems and then provided all 1,000 of them with a lavish meal at the palace.

For the most part, Tuesday's ceremony was typical: some land disputes and debt problems, dozens of well-to-do Arabians in their flowing gold-trimmed robes, almost all with canes. One man begged for mercy for his son, a convicted murderer who is to be beheaded.

But something else was going on as well that evening. As many as half the people who stood on line to speak to

the crown prince came to offer their condolences for the bombing last week that killed 19 American servicemen in al-Khobar—a stunning and upsetting incident for this normally peaceful realm. As the prince went into dinner, there was a defensive show of support for the royal family that in itself signaled that all is not right in the kingdom.

"The kingdom will be united," shouted one white-robed petitioner as he stepped up to the high table where the prince was dining. "Nothing will tear it apart."

"This house will stay," shouted another as the door looking prince forked a cucumber into his mouth. "And justice will be done by the sword."

Abdullah is one of more than a dozen remaining sons of King Abdel Aziz Al Saud, or Ibn Saud, whose ancestors first united the Arabian peninsula in 1745 and who is the founder of the modern Saudi dynasty. Abdullah's Al Saud family wields absolute power in the kingdom, and his own ascension to the throne appears near at hand.

King Fahd, the crown prince's 75-year-old half-brother, also known as the "Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques," suffered a stroke late last year and is now in frail health, with Abdullah his clear successor. At 72, Abdullah is believed by most Saudis to be honest. Diplomats say

that although he's slightly more traditional and Bedouin and less oriented toward the West than his half-brother the king—a man with good relations with the United States—a central tenet of his policy, along with quiet, peaceful co-existence with Israel—Abdullah is not expected to undertake any huge strategic shifts in policy.

"Crown Prince Abdullah is a good friend of the United States," said Theodore Katout, the charge d'affaires at the US Embassy in Riyadh, who knows that safeguarding American access to Saudi Arabian oil is a top American policy priority. "We know him well and he knows us well."

But Abdullah's opportunity is coming at a difficult moment, when there's fighting behind the scenes within the royal family and a growing terrorist threat, a rising Islamic militant presence in the country and a noticeable increase in grumbling about corruption inside the ruling family. In response to the challenges, the government has cracked down, leading Western observers to offer sharp criticism of the regime's human rights record.

At the root of the problem appears to be an economic dip for this fabulously wealthy oil-rich country. Although the country still sits on 26 percent of the world's oil reserves—some 360 billion barrels, enough to last at least another 100 years—there are signs of

fraying.

Flat oil prices, a national baby boom and the devastating price of more than \$50 billion for the Gulf War in 1991 has sent the per capita Gross Domestic Product plummeting from \$18,800 in 1981 to \$6,700 in 1995, according to a report by the US Embassy in Riyadh. Government debt is climbing, as is unemployment, and the good old days of subsidies and entitlements are coming to an end.

The result is a level of grumbling that didn't exist during the boom years. On one side is a small group of critics who want the society opened up—who think it's time the royal family, with its estimated 6,000 princes, stopped living in subsidized palaces and having their phone bills and laundry paid for by the ordinary people. These people would also like to see a less repressive government that doesn't muzzle the media, deny the right to vote and refuse to allow women the right to drive or go out in public without a scarf over their head and a man by their side.

On the other side is a more significant challenge from the Islamic fundamentalists—even though Saudi Arabia already applies Islamic law and does not recognize a difference between religion and the state. The Islamists, such as London-based dissident Mohammed Masari and others, want to see an even stricter enforcement of

Muslim standards and believe that the government has sold out its independence to the apostate West in general and the United States in particular. They, too, criticize the royal family. Although many of the Islamic dissidents are nonviolent, some have turned to violence, including the four men who were convicted of a bombing in Riyadh in November

that killed five Americans and two Indians. Police suspect the Islamists in last week's blast as well.

Neither side has enough of a following to pose a true threat to the Al Sauds yet, but both have raised concerns for the government, which has cracked down in recent months. Last year's human rights report by the US Department of State accused the regime of engaging in a pattern of arbitrary arrests and prolonged detention as well as



Abdullah

alleged abuse of political prisoners.

Abdullah's ascension to the throne during these turbulent times in the monarchy seems like it will be relatively smooth. He has been designated crown prince by his brother King Fahd—who has sole discretion to do choose his successor—and most likely will be followed in office by another brother, Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, the minister of defense. ■

Dean of diplomatic corps says modernization doesn't necessarily mean westernization

By John Daniszewski
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

OVER THE Arabian peninsula—Prince Bandar Ibn Sultan, ambassador to the United States, son of the defense minister, nephew of kings and grandson of the great Abdullaziz Ibn Saud—who by his wiles and steel unified the warring tribes to create Saudi Arabia—twirled a huge cigar as he rode his private Boeing 707 and explained why his country is unfazed by Islamic extremists, despite two recent bombings.

Look at Egypt, he said. There, the secular government and the extremists are far apart on matters of religion. He held the palms of his hands a foot apart. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak says he will meet extremists halfway but that is still too far for peace, Bandar said.

In contrast, in Saudi Arabia, the government and extremists are only this far apart, he said, holding his palms an inch from each other. When the government says it will meet them halfway, it may not be enough to satisfy radicals. But to most people, he said, the differences are minuscule. The people say, "Come on-n-n, you want us to fight over that?" the prince related, his eyes twinkling.

So, to Americans, the prince has this message: Don't worry.

But after the 25 June bombing of a US Air Force compound, where 19 service personnel were killed, many in the United States have fears.

Saudi Arabia sits astride one-quarter of the world's proven oil reserves, providing a major share of the petroleum that fuels Japan, Europe and the United States. American troops went to war to protect the Saudi oil fields in 1991. Some 5,000 of them remain in the country. It is one of the few places in the world that is labeled, officially, a US "vital interest."

Lately, Western concerns about Saudi Arabia have multiplied. Beside the external threats posed by Iraq and Iran, two bombings in seven months seem to point to a potential for violent, internal opposition to the regime, aided by religious fanatics at home and various exile groups abroad.

At the same time, the ruling family faces a period of transition after King Fahd, its 75-year-old monarch, suffered a stroke last November. Diplomats say he seems healthier now than a few months ago. But some responsibilities already have been coded to Crown Prince Abdullah, his successor.

Bandar, at 47 a representative of the next generation of Saudi leaders, said concerns about his country's stability have been exaggerated. He

sees no truth to parallels sometimes drawn between the Saudi regime and the Shah of Iran. The difference, he insisted, is that the Saudi ruling family has never lost touch with its people.

Saudi Arabia's rulers understand "all politics is local," Bandar explained to two visitors in his jet's spacious cabin recently for a two-hour flight from Dhahran on the Arabian Gulf to Jeddah on the Red Sea.

Unlike in America, where the president submits to a popular vote every four years, Middle Eastern monarchs live daily knowing that their opponents may rise up at any time—and there's no cushy retirement and pension for the ousted. For them, it's "au revoir, goodbye, no second chance," he said.

Therefore, the Saudi dynasty keeps its hand on the pulse of the nation, always knowing of events, he said, that, "What counts is how does it read in downtown Riyadh."

It is not surprising, he observed, that Saudi leaders eschew Western influences that offend their society's values: "Saudi Arabia probably is the most adherent, strict coun-



Ibn Sultan

try in administering Islamic law as a way of life, not just as religion."

Women are veiled from head to toe, unmarried people of the opposite sex may not sit in the same car and censors go through each copy of Time and Newsweek magazine inkling out photographs of the scantily clad. Criminal justice here is swift and harsh, including public beatings, lashings and amputations. All of this occurs in a country that boasts super highways, high-tech hospitals, computer software stores and cellular telephones.

"We want to modernize, but that doesn't necessarily mean

Westernize," said Bandar, a former fighter pilot and lieutenant colonel in the Saudi Air Force, who, on this flight, could supervise the takeoff without leaving his seat via digital speed- and altitude-readouts and a television screen in the cabin. The Shah's mistake, he asserted, was to "mix the two. ... He forgot he was not the Shah of America or the Shah of England or the Shah of France—he was the Shah of Iran."

The policy, though, of staying close to the people sometimes leads to an apparent contradiction between the government's internal positions and what it says to the outside world. For weeks this spring, after Israel bombed a UN camp in Lebanon, killing scores of refugees, government-paid mosque speakers and official newspapers in Saudi Arabia were filled with diatribes against the United States for supporting Israel.

To some Western diplomats it appeared to be an officially sanctioned anti-American campaign, even while the government remained allied with America and dependent on US forces and weaponry for its defense.

But Bandar—over a lunch from McDonald's and Pizza Hut, microwaved burgers and pizza—emphasized that Saudi, on the whole, support the Americans and were repulsed

by the bombings. "The anti-American image that we saw in the Far East or in Europe and so on has not been portrayed in this country," he asserted.

And, while the bombers may have hoped to alter a close US-Saudi relationship, that will not happen, he said, adding, "Otherwise, they would win. And we cannot allow terrorists to win."

Appointed ambassador to America in 1983—now making him a dean of the Washington diplomatic corps—Bandar in many ways personifies the close US-Saudi relationship. He played a major role as an envoy in engineering the two nations' noteworthy Gulf War cooperation. He still functions as a de facto national security adviser and international trouble-shooter for the king.

In the interview, Bandar disputed reports portraying Fahd as unable to govern. On the night of the Air Force base bombing, he said, he attended a crisis meeting with the king that lasted from 1 to 5 in the morning. "Now, these are not the working hours of someone who is not healthy or sick," Bandar said. "He is in good health. He is in charge of his responsibilities. I wish he would take more time to rest but he is a hands-on leader." ■

Government of Jordan Invitation for Expression of Interest

Jordan Investment Corporation (JIC) and Jordan Export Development and Commercial Centers Corporation are planning to establish (set-up) a Jordanian fair under the name "Jordan International Fair."

The main objective for establishing this Fair is to provide facilities to accommodate local, regional and international exhibition that take place in Jordan. In addition facilities would be provided for delivering lectures, conducting meetings... etc.

The site for the Fair has been chosen 10 km South-West of Amman, close in the highway leading to Queen Alia International Airport. The 230,000 m2 site is already provided with the required infrastructure (water, electricity, roads, and telephone lines).

It is proposed that the Fair facilities would include the following:

- * Exhibition Halls.
- * Meeting Rooms.
- * Storage Rooms.
- * Fast Food Restaurants.
- * Rest Rooms.
- * Car Parking.

This project is based on a Build, Own and Operate or Build, own and transfer approach. As such, companies with experience in setting-up, holding and operating similar ventures are cordially invited to submit their expressions of interest, along with a profile of the company's experience in similar projects, not later than 30 July 1996 to:

Eng. M. Batayneh
Director General

Jordan Investment Corporation
P.O. Box 3294
Amman-Jordan
Fax No. 962 6 816915

Gaza reaches for the skies

Israel demands total control of air movement

By Derek Brown

NEAR THE entrance to Gaza International Airport a group of Camels stands ruminatively in a sparse field of sand and cactus. They could become a useful aid to travellers if Palestine Airlines takes to the skies, sometime this month.

There is no road to the airport. Come to that, there is virtually no airport, just a broad strip of tarmac studded with contractor's equipment, the rudimentary foundations of a control tower, and... that's it.

Of such stuff are Palestinian dreams made. In the tiny site office, standing forlornly in the sand, smiling officers of what might be one day the Palestinian air force helpfully produce a smart set of architect's drawings. They show a neat terminal surmounted by the sleek control tower, offices for Palestinian airlines and the Palestinian civil aviation authority and maintenance facilities. All the buildings are elegantly Islamic in style.

There is no reason to doubt that one day all of this will appear among the sandy wastes of Rafah. The 3000-yard runway, which is near completion has been built to first-class standards, and already a jet aircraft—inevitably, the convey-

ance of Yasser Arafat—has landed on it.

Palestinian officials cheerfully assert that scheduled services to Cairo, Amman and Larnaca will begin this month, and that the airport will handle 500,000 passengers in the first year.

If the passengers do come, they will find a melange of delight and nightmare. No customs hall, no immigration area, no duty-free shops. No instruments, no runway lights—and no road.

Palestine Airlines, it is true, has two Fokker 50 turbo-prop machines ready to take to the air. Each can carry 50 passengers. Undoubtedly, a market exists in the Gaza Strip and the Arab world for a direct route to the fledgling Palestine.

But there lies the rub: Israel demands, and Israel will have if precedent is anything to go by, total control of all movement in and out of Gaza. And that will include the airport.

Already, Israeli soldiers have peremptorily halted work on the 125-acre site. And although the construction gangs are back, working night and day, there is no sign of an agreement on who will handle security and immigration checks.

Security, in the view of Dailallah Elakhras, deputy minis-

ter of public works in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), is an "internal problem" for the Israelis.

"I hope they will be open-minded about this, and that this airport will be opened and used as one of the international airports for Palestinian state," he said, neatly if unwittingly summing up Israel's most vital objection to the enterprise: any airport handling international flights, however limited, is the ultimate symbol of modern sovereignty, and Palestinian statehood is anathema to Benjamin Netanyahu.

The paradox is that Mr Netanyahu's ardent opposition to independence, while it will outrage many Palestinians, could improve their lives significantly.

Part of the ideological underpinning of the previous Israeli government's approach to peace was the concept of separation, symbolized by the gaunt wire fence which enclosed the Gaza Strip. It became the totem of the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, who even toyed with the idea of fencing off tracts of the West Bank.

Mr Rabin also espoused, with the dogged faith of an old soldier, the technique of closing Israel's borders to Palestinian workers in the wake of militant outrages. It is a deeply flawed

policy—not a single act of violence has ever been carried out by a Palestinian bearing a valid Israeli work permit—but has been undoubtedly popular with Israelis.

The closure policy, applied with great rigor after the ghastly spate of four suicide bombings in February and March, has been an economic disaster for the Palestinians. Tens of thousands of workers have lost their livelihoods, scores of local businesses have been cut off from materials and customers.

Terje Larsen, an intermediary in the secret Oslo talks which led to the 1993 Israeli-PLO peace accord, and now United Nations special coordinator in the Occupied Territories, believes that the financial crisis is now so grave that there is a real possibility of the PNA collapsing.

At the start of this year, the PNA estimated it would have a 1996 budget deficit of about \$50 million. But Mr Larsen points out, for every 10,000 Palestinians who cross into Israel to work, the authority collects an annual \$30 million in taxes and other revenue.

The total border closure of late February has recently been alleviated, restoring some 25,000 livelihoods. But that is only a fraction of the Palestin-

ians who used to cross the border—130,000 in the 1980s—and the latest estimate of the budget deficit is a staggering \$160 million to help plug the gap.

Very soon, Mr Larsen says, the PNA will simply run out of cash to pay its own workers: not least the 26,000 or so soldiers, police, and other security forces.

"What we need from the government of Israel is a commitment to open up its borders to Palestinian laborers. The last government has put that commitment partly into action by relaxing the closure, but the upcoming government has to continue the policy," he says.

Many Palestinians, however much they detest the Likud espousal of occupation and expansion of Jewish settlements, hope that the new government will break with the policy of closure, which has brought the Gaza Strip in particular close to complete economic breakdown.

Unemployment in Gaza is estimated at up to 60 percent. Half the 900,000 residents are under 15, 20,000 school-leavers enter the non-existent job market every year. "It is, economically, a ticking time bomb," Mr Larsen observes. ■

Les symboles de la Révolution La Marseillaise

Appelée primitivement «chant de guerre pour l'armée du Rhin», La Marseillaise fut composée dans la nuit du 25 au 26 avril 1792 par un aristocrate, capitaine issu du corps des ingénieurs militaires, Rouget de Lisle. Il la chanta pour la première fois le lendemain de sa composition au domicile de Dietrich, maire de Strasbourg. Très rapidement adopté par les garnisons et les troupes, ce chant arriva à Paris sur les lèvres des volontaires marseillais et retentit aux Tuileries le 10 août 1792, ce qui lui valut son nom actuel. La Marseillaise fut déclarée chant national le 14 juillet 1795.

Fête du 14 juillet

Le Jourdain entre en Seine

A l'occasion de la fête nationale française, le Jourdain et le Star jettent le pont entre la Jordanie et la France en publiant un supplément spécial de sept pages.



Selon moi

Que signifie aujourd'hui la France aux yeux des Jordaniens? La vision que les Jordaniens ont de la France est formée par une méconnaissance presque totale de la France. En effet, et probablement dans un but de valorisation d'autres puissances, le Jordanien ne connaît de la France que ses mauvais côtés. Mais peut-on vraiment lui en vouloir? Car quels efforts a-t-elle faits pour la France pour conquérir sa confiance?

En menant de côté les séquelles de la guerre d'Algérie qui n'ont marqué que brièvement les habitants du Machrek, la France a été considérée à trois reprises comme un pays «infidèle», au cours de l'Histoire moderne de la région: avec l'accord Sykes-Picot qui a anéanti les rêves d'indépendance des peuples arabes, avec la guerre de Suez en 1956, et enfin avec la guerre du Golfe et la politique socialiste en faveur des Américains et des Israéliens.

Pour beaucoup de Jordaniens avertis, la France représente l'avenue Montaigne, la place Vendôme, le pays de la haute-couture ou les villes de Cannes et Deauville. Pour les jeunes qui n'apprennent plus l'histoire des grandes nations, la France reste le pays des jolies femmes, de la liberté individuelle et sociale, du confort et de la Tour Eiffel.

Pour d'autres, la France n'est autre que le pays qui aurait pu éviter le conflit du Liban, celui qui aurait été capable de régler la crise du Golfe par la diplomatie et qui, surtout, possédait les meilleurs arguments pour favoriser le dialogue entre les Israéliens et les Arabes en poursuivant tout simplement l'oeuvre de Mendès-France à laquelle François Mitterrand a mis un terme.

La Jordanie ne fait pas partie des pays qui célèbrent la «fin» mais nombreux sont les Jordaniens qui conservent estime et respect pour la France, continuant à mélanger illusions et espoirs dans leurs visions de l'avenir des relations entre nos deux peuples.

Sur l'échiquier mondial, la France a perdu sa place de cavalier et se voit cantonnée à celle de pion. Le malaise que vit en ce moment la France tient en majeure partie à son manque de crédibilité auprès des différents interlocuteurs qui ne lui trouvent aucun intérêt supplémentaire par rapport à d'autres grandes puissances.

Les Jordaniens ne doutent aucunement de la sincérité et de la bonne volonté de M. Chirac. Ils attendent impatiemment de voir ses paroles se transformer en actes, afin de prouver hors des frontières de l'hexagone que la France est libre et indépendante dans ses décisions et qu'elle possède une vision différente des valeurs humaines.

Dès lors, dans ce monde dépourvu d'âme et de morale, les peuples poussés au désespoir seront ravis de voir jaillir de cette jungle une France digne de son histoire qui leur apportera l'espoir et les aidera à sortir de l'abîme.

Si ce rêve se réalise, la France peut être assurée que la Jordanie et les autres citoyens du monde libre boiront à sa santé le verre de l'amitié lors du prochain 14 juillet. Et la France pourra alors effacer de sa mémoire le nom de certains dirigeants qui ont voulu rentrer dans l'Histoire par la petite porte, oubliant les valeurs que leur nation a promis de respecter ce fameux 14 juillet 1789. ■

Soubail Al Sweis

Avec la présence de Jacques Chirac à la tête de l'Etat français, prévoyez-vous le retour d'une politique arabe française?

Je prévois le retour d'une politique de plus grande présence de la France au Proche-Orient. C'est le monde arabe est au centre de nos préoccupations dans le Proche-Orient mais il y a aussi les Israéliens, les Turcs. Donc disons qu'il y a un accent nouveau, une détermination pour être davantage présent et jouer un rôle plus important pour nous et pour l'Europe dans l'ensemble de la région.

Comment évaluez-vous le rôle de la France et de la mission Hervé de Charette, ministre des Affaires étrangères, lors de la crise du Liban?

Je l'évalue à la fois comme une mission très difficile et comme une mission très réussie puisque le ministre, qui a été envoyé pour deux jours au Liban par le président Chirac, y est resté quinze. Et comme il l'avait promis en arrivant, il n'a pas lâché prise avant d'être parvenu à un résultat, à savoir un cessez-le-feu.

Mais cette mission a suscité des critiques en Europe.

Hervé de Charette a été critiqué par plusieurs pays européens qui, à mon avis, ont fait une réaction de jalousie car ils auraient souhaité en faire autant. J'admets qu'il y a eu aussi un problème de fond: l'Europe

n'est pas outillée pour répondre vite à une situation de crise. La trêve n'est peut-être plus la formule adaptée. Il faut donc commencer à réfléchir à autre chose. En revanche, nous n'avons recueilli du côté arabe que des commentaires très favorables.

Il s'agit maintenant de connaître la suite donnée à cette mission. Il y a eu un accord le 26 avril sur les modalités du cessez-le-feu, et des négociations ont ensuite eu lieu à Washington pour la mise en oeuvre du groupe de surveillance. La question est de savoir si le nouveau gouvernement israélien va donner son accord à ce qui a déjà été acquis. Nous pensons que la meilleure façon de prévenir les incidents au Sud-Liban et au nord d'Israël, c'est de mettre en oeuvre le groupe de surveillance.

Les Etats-Unis n'ont pas de leur côté très bien accueilli au départ l'intervention de la France, qui, dans cette affaire, a été plus rapide. Ils n'étaient plus habitués à nous voir agir dans cette région. Mais depuis la mission de M. de Charette, ils se sont montrés beaux-joueurs et nous avons une très bonne coopération franco-américaine pour l'application de l'accord du 26 avril. Les véritables relations de partenariat ne naissent pas dans la complaisance ou la soumission, mais dans la résolution des contradictions.

Traditionnellement, la France a eu des relations un

Interview

Des liens renforcés entre la France et la Jordanie

Le premier semestre de l'année 1996 a été marqué par un rôle accru de la France au Moyen-Orient.

Un changement politique qui se ressent aussi dans le royaume hachémite, comme l'explique Bernard Bajolet, Ambassadeur de France en Jordanie. Pour lui, les relations entre les deux pays se sont récemment renforcées, et ce aussi bien dans le domaine politique que culturel ou économique.

peu troublées avec le Likoud. Comment voyez-vous la politique française après l'élection de M. Netanyahu?

Nous respectons évidemment le choix des électeurs israéliens qui s'est fait dans des conditions tout à fait démocratiques. Notre sentiment est que, si j'en juge par le premier programme du gouvernement israélien, les choses risquent de ne pas être plus faciles. Ce que nous espérons, c'est que le gouvernement israélien soit amené à prendre en compte les réalités. Et les réalités, c'est qu'il ne peut pas y avoir de sécurité sans la paix. Et si la paix ne progresse pas, il sera extrêmement difficile de maintenir la sécurité. Donc paix et sécurité vont tout à fait ensemble.

Le Likoud s'est déclaré très hostile dans le passé à un rôle des pays européens dans le processus de paix. Croyez-vous qu'il sera désormais plus amical?

Nous n'attendons pas du Likoud qu'il soit amical. Nous attendons du nouveau gouvernement israélien qu'il soit constructif. Je constate d'ailleurs que les choses ne sont pas très faciles non plus avec les Etats-Unis. Le gouvernement israélien n'a pas critiqué la déclaration européenne sur la relance du processus de paix faite par le sommet européen de Florence qui a

eu lieu fin juin. En fait cette déclaration n'a été critiquée par personne et a été saluée par plusieurs pays arabes, dont l'Egypte, la Jordanie et la Syrie.

D'autre part, le premier contact du président Chirac avec M. Netanyahu a été un bon contact. M. Chirac a téléphoné à M. Netanyahu au lendemain de son élection pour le féliciter. Il lui a dit qu'il espérait vraiment qu'il allait poursuivre le processus de paix. M. Netanyahu lui a donné des assurances en ce sens. Jacques Chirac a insisté sur le volet palestinien qui lui paraît particulièrement important pour faire avancer le processus de paix et il a invité M. Netanyahu à se rendre prochainement à Paris.

A propos du sommet de Florence, est-ce que la France aurait souhaité qu'il soit fait mention d'un Etat palestinien dans la déclaration finale?

Oui, nous l'aurions souhaité. Mais on sait très bien ce que veut la France puisque le président de la République s'est prononcé très clairement en faveur d'un Etat palestinien lors de son discours du Caire en avril dernier. Cela étant, nous sommes satisfaits de la déclaration de Florence. Elle est d'inspiration française, et britannique. On n'a pas fait passer tout ce



M. Bernard Bajolet, Ambassadeur de France en Jordanie.

que l'on a voulu mais globalement le texte est très satisfaisant. Et la notion d'un Etat palestinien est de toute façon incluse dans la déclaration, puisque celle-ci se prononce en faveur de «l'autodétermination pour les Palestiniens avec tout ce que cela implique». Vous avez noté aussi que le Conseil européen de Florence a mis l'accent sur «l'échange des territoires contre la paix». Une formule qui a été reprise par le sommet du G7 à Lyon. Et je peux vous dire que ce n'est pas un hasard.

Cette déclaration est-elle l'illustration du nouvel engagement européen dirigé par la diplomatie française?

Nous l'espérons. Et je dois dire qu'il y a désormais une très bonne entente franco-britannique qui est un peu nouvelle sur le problème du Proche-Orient. Je pense que cette entente peut avoir une certaine influence au sein de l'Union européenne.

Croyez-vous que la Syrie préfère plutôt coopérer avec la France qu'avec les Etats-Unis?

Nous ne souhaitons absolument pas nous substituer aux Etats-Unis. Ce serait illusoire. Cependant, nous avons vu dans la dernière crise libanaise que si la France n'avait pas été là, la crise n'aurait pas été résolue.

Suite page 8



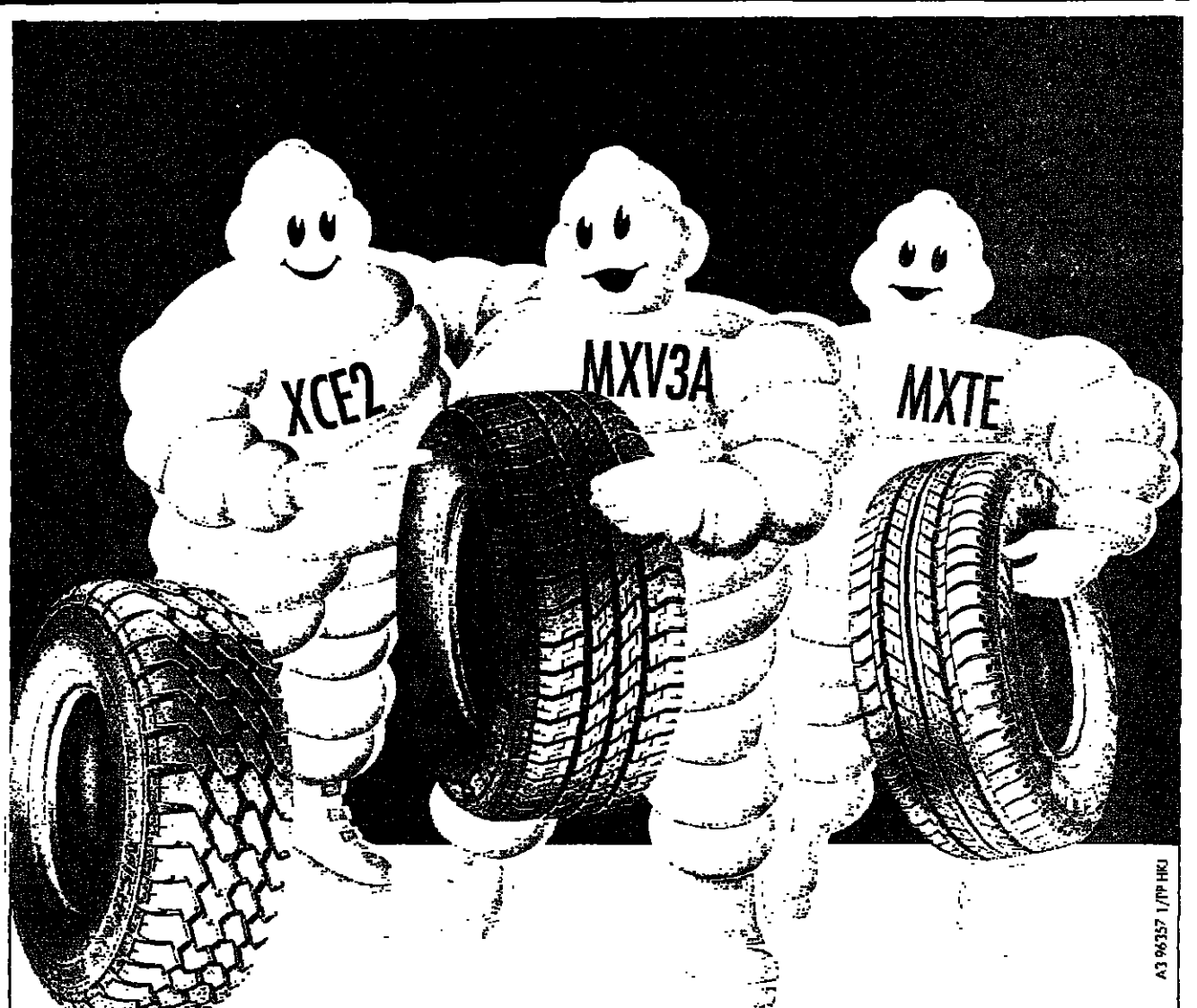
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Fête du 14 juillet Le Jourdain entre en Seine

A l'occasion de la fête nationale française, le Jourdain et le Star jetteront un pont entre la Jordanie et la France en publiant un supplément spécial de sept pages.

Les symboles de la Révolution

La guillotine

Député de Paris, le docteur Guillotin fit adopter le principe d'une exécution égalitaire et unique pour tous. Il demanda la conception d'une mécanique dont le jeu trancherait la tête aux criminels en un clin d'œil, ce qui éviterait les souffrances inutiles.

Employée pour la première fois le 25 avril 1792 pour un voleur, la guillotine est placée à partir du 21 août sur la place du Carroussel. Elle sert alors à exécuter tous ceux qui ont osé défier le roi.

Le roi Louis XVI sera lui guillotiné le 21 janvier 1793 place de la Concorde, qui deviendra quelques mois plus tard place de la Révolution.

Des liens renforcés...

Suite de la page 7

parce que certaines parties de la région, notamment le Liban et la Syrie, tenaient absolument à ce que la France soit associée à un règlement. Mais l'implication américaine dans le processus de paix nous semble une chose extrêmement importante, positive et indispensable.

Notre action ne s'inscrit pas en concurrence avec celle des Etats-Unis. C'est une action indépendante qui poursuit les mêmes objectifs globaux, à savoir la paix, la prospérité et la sécurité des peuples de la région, avec parfois, il est vrai, des différences d'accent ou de sensibilité.

Jacques Chirac prévoit de se rendre en Jordanie vers la fin de l'année. Cette visite traduit-elle un plus grand attachement de la France à la Jordanie?

Oui, je le crois, et de fait, les relations avec la Jordanie se sont renforcées récemment. Les très nombreuses visites ministérielles témoignent de ces nouvelles relations. Le tiers du gouvernement français est venu en Jordanie en moins d'un an et d'autres contacts sont prévus. Le roi a lui-même rencontré deux fois à Paris le président Chirac.

Pour la première fois, nous avons signé en décembre dernier un accord militaire avec la Jordanie. Il y a du côté français comme du côté jordanien une volonté de renforcer ces relations. Et ceci se traduira par la visite officielle du président Chirac, dont le principe est acquis mais la date non fixée.

Croyez-vous que les échanges culturels entre les deux pays soient handicapés par le fait que le français soit peu développé dans le pays?

C'est vrai que la français n'est pas très répandue en Jordanie, mais je suis frappé de voir la vitalité de la relation culturelle franco-jordanienne. Curieusement, l'enseignement du français se développe. Il est vrai, en grande partie, grâce aux établissements privés. Mais dans d'autres pays arabes, les établissements privés ont été nationalisés et le français a baissé.

En Jordanie, au contraire, l'enseignement du français est de très bonne qualité et il augmente dans le secteur privé. Nous avons d'ailleurs un objectif qui serait de revaloriser le statut du français au baccalauréat jordanien.

Au niveau culturel, il y a plus de manifestations françaises en Jordanie et nous souhaitons qu'il y ait plus de manifestations culturelles jordanien en France. Nous voulons que les relations culturelles soient des relations réellement équilibrées.

Et c'est pour cela d'ailleurs que l'année prochaine il y aura une grande manifestation à Paris. «la saison jordanienne» (ndlr: voir en pages intérieures), et je ne me souviens pas que l'on ait fait cela pour aucun autre pays que la Jordanie, du moins sur une telle échelle.

De quelle nature sont les relations économiques entre la France et la Jordanie?

La Jordanie est un marché relativement petit, mais c'est un pays de carrefour vers le Proche-Orient et le Moyen-Orient. C'est un pays qui, pour le futur, présente beaucoup de perspectives. De plus, c'est un gros marché dans certains domaines comme, par exemple, celui de l'eau ou celui du tourisme.

La Jordanie est un pays qui offre aux sociétés qui veulent rayonner dans l'ensemble du Moyen-Orient une base stable et solide. C'est un pays dans lequel le téléphone marche, l'administration marche et où la vie est agréable.

A partir de la Jordanie, on peut travailler dans beaucoup de pays, y compris en Israël d'ailleurs.

Al Sharif Fawaz Sharif, ambassadeur jordanien en France, déclarait récemment qu'il espérait que la France parraine un important projet économique. Est-ce qu'il sera entendu?

C'est une très bonne idée. Nous souhaiterions investir sur de grands projets en Jordanie, peut-être pas seulement au niveau français, mais au niveau européen.

La France souhaiterait mobiliser ses partenaires européens, en coopération notamment avec l'Allemagne, la Commission européenne, la Banque européenne d'investissements, autour de quelques grands projets.

Il appartient bien sûr à la Jordanie de nous dire quelles sont ses priorités, quels sont les grands projets qu'elle souhaite voir financés.

Propos recueillis par Ali Kassey et Olivier Bras

Histoire

Les raisons d'une révolution

La Révolution française est le résultat d'une lente évolution de la société française qui a créé un décalage complet entre les aspirations du peuple et celles de la monarchie.

1789, l'année de la France, est aussi universelle que les principes alors proclamés et qui, reconnus dans une partie du monde, sommeillent dans l'autre comme une nostalgie teintée d'espoir ou comme un aboutissement encore inaccessible, en tout cas l'attente d'une espérance savoureuse. 1789: acte abouti, et désir éclairant un avenir de bonheur, année toujours inachevée, inscrite dans l'Histoire et cependant intemporelle. 1789, comme la décrit Guy Chausson-Nogaret, ne fut pas tout à fait une interruption imprévue dans le tissu d'une histoire

minée, souffrait en outre d'une baisse dramatique de prestige et de popularité. Les signes d'un régime à bout de souffle se multipliaient et chacun était prêt à saisir la première occasion pour s'emparer de la puissance chancelante et la diriger dans le sens le plus conforme à ses aspirations.

Pour qu'on en arrivât à cette situation explosive, un long travail de sapes a été nécessaire et pour que l'Etat atteigne cet excès de fragilité, il avait fallu que plusieurs générations successives portassent des coups décisifs à un régime trop sûr de sa solidité et peu apte à orga-

du trône s'alourdissait d'une atmosphère irrespirable d'insatisfaction diffuse tandis que s'accumulaient les périls et que l'ennemi gagnait en audace et ne reculait plus devant l'offense sacrilège annonçant la naissance d'une ère nouvelle.

La France croyait à la régénération car elle étouffait dans le carcan de structures archaïques et de traditions surannées, parce que depuis longtemps les forces sociales lentement épanouies étaient parvenues à maturité et que l'espoir s'était glissé jusqu'au tréfonds le plus humble et le plus misérable de la société. Le royaume voulait vivre et il devait bouger pour éviter la paralysie ou la mort.

La monarchie n'avait duré tant de siècles que par son dynamisme et sa créativité. Or maintenant, elle se raidissait et s'asphyxait. Elle semblait frappée d'inertie, incapable

d'accomplir le geste salvateur et inapte même à la soulever.

Le fossé s'agrandissait entre une société

avide, qui marchait à

grand pas vers un avenir incertain mais qu'elle imaginait paradisiaque, et un pouvoir immobile, sans force pour entreprendre ni volonté pour décider. Comme si la pesanteur des siècles avait vidé la monarchie de toute énergie et l'avait rendue incapable d'affronter une évolution qu'elle avait elle-même provoquée. Il ne s'agissait pas d'un simple déphasage, mais d'une perte de contenu, d'existence, qui contrastait avec la vitalité d'une société dont l'effervescence était l'image même de la volonté de vivre et de briser les obstacles qui s'opposaient à son épanouissement.

niser une riposte efficace à des attaques certes désordonnées et souvent indirectes, mais qui le minaient sournoisement dans ses fondements les plus anciens.

Face à ce nouveau pouvoir, encore réthorique et sans réel contenu, le principe de la légitimité du véritable pouvoir était battu en brèche par le scepticisme et l'incrédulité. Le droit du roi, élu de Dieu et gouvernant en son nom, provoquait désormais des ricanements et des plaisanteries. Au recul du sacré s'ajouta la perte du respect. Le scandale monté de toute pièce par rancune, suffisance et ambition par les dignitaires du régime, inventa une reine gorgone et un roi déshonoré.

La montée du mépris autour

Soubail Al Sweis

Analyse

Une politique arabe changeante

Depuis cinquante ans, la France a plusieurs fois modifié sa ligne politique en ce qui concerne le Proche-Orient. Avec Jacques Chirac, elle espère retrouver un rôle important dans la région.

La politique

française dans le Proche-Orient depuis la seconde guerre mondiale a été dominée par deux questions principales: le colonialisme et le conflit arabo-israélien. Pendant la guerre d'indépendance d'Algérie, les pays arabes du Machrek ont soutenu les Algériens, surtout après la révolution de 1952 en Egypte. Cela a poussé la quatrième République française vers une alliance étroite avec Israël, culminant avec une opération militaire aux côtés des Anglais contre l'Egypte en 1956.

L'arrivée de Charles de Gaulle à la tête de la cinquième République, a marqué un changement profond dans la politique française. A partir de 1958, la France s'est efforcée de développer ses liens avec les Etats arabes, tout en maintenant des relations étroites avec Israël. Cette politique a été mise à l'épreuve en juin 1967, lorsque Charles de Gaulle n'a rien pu faire pour dissuader Israël d'utiliser sa supériorité militaire pour briser l'état de siège imposé par le président Nasser.

En 1967, la France a découvert qu'elle n'avait pas le pouvoir d'agir au niveau unilatéral. Elle a donc essayé lors de la guerre de 1973 de recourir à une politique de coopération européenne pour donner du poids à sa politique. Si cette guerre n'a pratiquement pas vu de coordination politique, la déclaration européenne de Copenhague représentait une victoire éclatante pour la diplomatie française car elle comprenait tous les principes de la diplomatie française.

L'alignement des cinq, puis des huit, membres de l'Union européenne derrière la France s'explique par le fait que ce pays avait la tradition diplomatique la plus longue parmi ses partenaires et que ses liens étaient plus solides avec les pays du Proche-Orient. C'était aussi

le seul pays parmi eux qui continuait à aspirer à un rôle important sur l'échiquier mondial.

Une nouvelle ambition

Mais la déclaration des Européens n'a pas été suivie de faits. Sur le terrain, c'était toujours la diplomatie américaine, agissant dans le sens inverse, qui dominait, accablant du traité de paix entre Israël et l'Egypte.

A la fin de 1981, les élections en France ont amené les socialistes au pouvoir, ce qui a produit une véritable mutation au niveau de la politique intérieure et extérieure de la France. François Mitterrand, le nouveau président français, choisit alors Israël pour l'une de ses toutes premières visites à l'étranger.

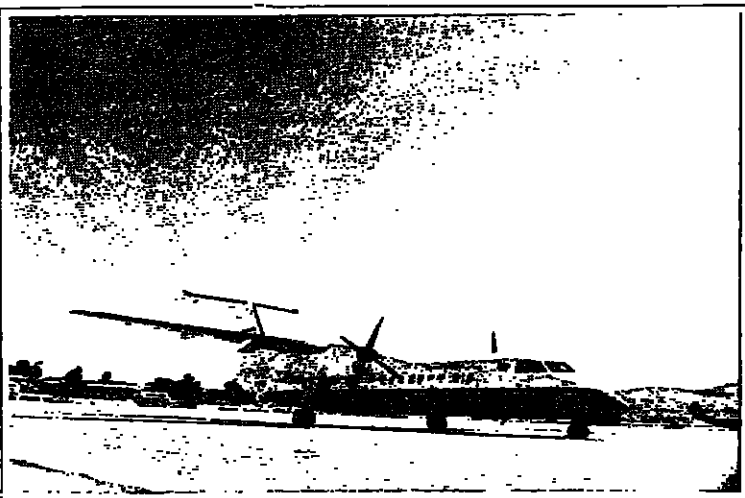
Mais l'intransigence du Likoud dirigé par Shamir (invasion du Liban, politique de colonisation des territoires occupés et extension de la loi israélienne au Golan) a empêché un vrai rapprochement entre les deux pays, renforçant au contraire les divisions.

Ali Kassey

Monsieur Bernard Bajolet, Ambassadeur de France en Jordanie, invite cordialement tous les Français en Jordanie à la réception qu'il offrira à l'occasion de la Fête nationale, le dimanche 14 juillet 1996 de 19h30 à 21h30 à la Résidence de France à Amman. Les cartons d'invitation, qui seront exigés à l'entrée de la résidence, peuvent être retirés jusqu'au dimanche 14 à 16h à l'Ambassade, sur présentation d'une carte d'identité.

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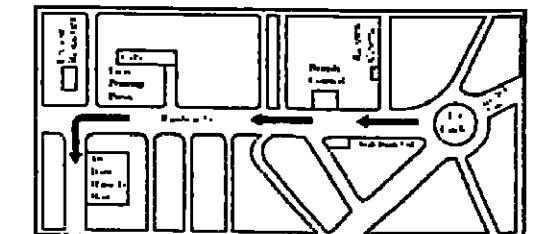
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illotin le 21 janvier
endra quelques mois.

angeant
plusieurs fois
concerne le
ac, elle espère
s la région.

Dans la crise du Louvre
qu'un cours de la guerre.
Gothie, la France a cherché
rifier la politique royale.
Mais elle a souvent eu
et surtout en ce qui concerne
processus de par les
cipes sur lesquels les
tions étaient basées.
les principes de la
de Venise. Mais au mo-
tique, il n'y a eu au-
ence à l'Europe qu'après
cette déclaration de
France qui l'a an-
c'est la diplomatie
qui a emmené les
sautour d'une table par
la paix.

Il y a désormais un
président à l'Elysée
rive au pouvoir et il
beaucoup d'ambition
nant le rôle de la France
région, qu'il veut é-
et en collaboration
l'Europe et les États-
s'agit désormais de
aura plus de chance
prédateurs pour faire
dre la voix de la France.

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Les symboles de la Révolution
Le bonnet de la liberté

Le bonnet rouge fut le signe de ralliement du parti populaire et symbolisa la liberté retrouvée, par allusion au bonnet phrygien des esclaves de l'Antiquité.

Les riches patriotes le firent peindre comme armoiries sur leurs voitures. Le 20 juin 1793, Louis XVI fut contraint de s'en coiffer. Le bonnet rouge est devenu l'emblème du mouvement sans-culotte, cette révolution dans la révolution qui a commencé par une révolution de costumes au sein des sociétés populaires et de la démocratie qui s'y pratiquait. Il était le signe éclatant de l'égalité, associé à la fois à l'idée de révolte populaire et à la naissance de l'Etat français républicain.

Fête du 14 Juillet

Le Jourdain entre en Seine

A l'occasion de la fête nationale française, le Jourdain et le Star jetteront pont sur la Jordanie et la France en publiant un supplément spécial de sept pages.



La Révolution française offre la liberté aux artistes

La Révolution française n'est pas qu'un tournant dans la vie politique française. Elle a aussi fortement marqué la vie artistique. Grâce à de nouveaux mécènes, les artistes ont soudainement eu la liberté de travailler comme ils le souhaitent.

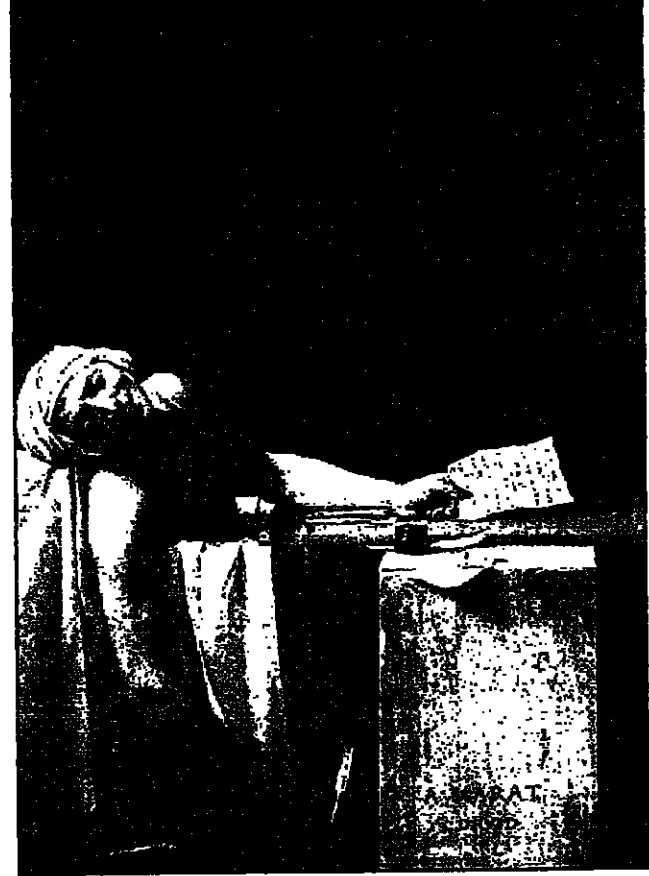
La Révolution française a joué un rôle très important dans l'évolution de l'art et la vie de l'artiste en France.

Pendant l'ère gothique, l'art servait à glorifier Dieu. Au XVIème siècle, l'art se concentrait surtout sur la royauté. L'architecture, la construction de grands châteaux, la sculpture, la tapisserie, et la peinture, étaient destinés à servir la vie seigneuriale. Le XVIIème nous emmène à l'époque de la gloire du Roi Louis XIV. C'est l'époque de l'architecture classique. Celle où chaque roi européen voulait se faire bâtir un palais qui évoquerait Versailles. En 1662, Colbert, ministre du roi, contribue à la gloire du royaume en développant l'industrie et la production artistique française. Il achète un quartier de Paris, Les Gobelins, où il regroupe les divers ateliers de tapisserie, les fondeurs, les orfèvres, les graveurs, les menuisiers et les ébénistes de la Manufacture royale de meubles et de tapisseries de la Couronne. C'est là qu'est réalisé tout ce qui fera plus tard la grandeur des maisons royales de France.

En 1671, l'Académie française de peinture et de sculpture est créée. Elle est dirigée par Charles Le Brun, puis par Pierre Mignard. Pour devenir académicien, il fallait participer à plusieurs concours, dont le prix de Rome. L'artiste qui gagnait ce prix était alors choyé par le gouvernement qui lui achetait ses tableaux pour les Salons.

L'Académie exerçait une tyrannie pernicieuse sur les artistes en influant sur leur travail. Et c'est par le biais de l'Académie que Louis XIV fut pendant cinquante ans l'instigateur des tendances artistiques Françaises. Il était le seul mécène pour les artistes.

Les artistes qui n'étaient pas membres ou associés à l'Académie ne pouvaient pas exposer leurs œuvres en public. Un droit que n'avaient d'ailleurs pas non plus les Académiciens.



«La mort de Marat», un tableau réalisé par David en 1793

qui survient en 1788.

Le manque d'argent se ressent dans le mobilier de la Révolution. L'acajou, remplace les bois exotiques trop coûteux. Les accessoires métalliques remplacent la marqueterie.

En 1793, des milliers de pièces de grande valeur, provenant surtout de Versailles, sont proposées à la vente. Les Anglais remplirent leurs bateaux de ces trésors vendus pour des sommes insignifiantes.

La manufacture des Gobelins a elle aussi connu beaucoup de difficultés pendant l'époque révolutionnaire. Des tapisseries furent brûlées dans la cour des Gobelins au pied de l'arbre de la Liberté en novembre 1793. Certaines, qui avaient demandé 15 à 20 ans de travail à plu-

de la patrie, le culte du héros. Le sujet est radical et sévère.

Tous les deux ans, les Académiciens exposent dans le Salon Carré du Louvre. C'est le seul moyen pour les artistes de se faire connaître. Diderot écrit de 1755 à 1771 les comptes rendus des Salons. C'est le premier critique d'art.

Au dernier Salon de La Monarchie en 1789, seulement 350 peintures étaient exposées. L'année de la terreur, en 1793, il y a plus d'un millier de toiles et en 1795, ce nombre atteint 3048. Cela signifie que la Révolution française a donné aux artistes la liberté d'exposer leurs œuvres en public. Le Gouvernement Révolutionnaire encourageait les artistes en distribuant chaque année des prix. Il commence aussi à organiser des Musées Publics.

Le 27 Juillet 1793, La Convention décrète la transformation du Louvre en musée, qui était jusqu'alors utilisé comme résidences et ateliers des grands artistes. Tout les trésors artistiques collectés dans les palais royaux, les monastères et les maisons des aristocrates y sont exposés. Mais cet endroit pestilentiel n'est nettoyé qu'au temps de Napoléon qui en fait un musée digne de la France.

Les excès de la Révolution

Le plus grand peintre néo-classique, Jacques Louis David (1748-1825), peignait des œuvres dignes et nobles. Il impressionnait le peuple qui était ennuagé par le charme affecté de Fragonard et la bonté sucrée de Greuze. Son tableau *La mort de Marat* immortalise le meurtre du médecin et homme politique, rédacteur de "l'Ami du Peuple", membre actif du club des Cordeliers (club révolutionnaire de recrutement populaire) et député de Paris à la Convention, qui a décidé la condamnation à mort de Louis XVI. Il fut assassiné dans sa baignoire par Charlotte Corday.

Dans un autre tableau de David, *Le Serment des Horaces*, l'individualisme est abandonné pour des sentiments communautaires: le devoir, la liberté

res. La Liberté, l'Egalité chassant de leurs territoires les castes privilégiées devient La Religion et La Foi poursuivant les vices et les erreurs des peuples idolâtres.

La frénésie qui succéda à la terreur se voit dans les œuvres de Louis Boilly (1761/1845). Ce sont des documentaires de l'époque du Directoire. Il montre des scènes de la vie quotidienne, de l'élégance affectée des «Incrochables» (jeunes hommes à la tenue excentrique et au langage affecté) et les «Merveilleuses», femmes élégantes vêtues à l'antique d'une robe transparente et coiffées à la grecque.

Boilly était un des premiers adeptes français de la lithographie. Ses caricatures nous mon-



Inauguré le 10 août 1793, le musée du Louvre, peint ici par Hubert Robert, ne deviendra un grand musée que quelques années plus tard sous Napoléon.

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Fête du 4 juillet

Le Jourdain entre en Seine

A l'occasion de la fête nationale française, le Jourdain et le Star jettent un pont entre la Jordanie et la France en publiant un supplément spécial de sept pages.

Francophonie

Ces écrivains venus d'ailleurs

Bien des raisons ont conduit nombre d'auteurs d'origine étrangère à délaisser leur langue maternelle pour lui préférer le français comme moyen d'expression. Beaucoup ont subi «le coup de foudre».

En janvier 1996.

L'Académie française accueillait le romancier Hector Bianciotti parmi les 40 «Immortels» qui composent cette prestigieuse institution. Bel hommage rendu, à travers cet homme de lettres, né dans la pampa argentine de parents italiens, aux «écrivains d'ailleurs» qui ont la langue de Molière en partage.

Bianciotti a opté pour la nationalité française en 1981 et il a fait son choix «par amour pour Verlainne et Valéry». Il ajoute qu'il avait besoin de la «finesse et des subtilités du français» pour écrire ses romans: «ce que la nuit raconte au jour, le pas si lent de l'amour».

Quelques mois plus tôt, l'Académie Goncourt a décerné son prix - la plus prestigieuse récompense littéraire annuelle en France - au Russe André Makine pour son *Testament français*. Un roman écrit sur les bords de la Seine, où cet ancien professeur de linguistique de Novgorod a jeté l'ancre, il y a huit ans.

Julian Green, américain d'origine, a presque toujours résidé à l'ombre de la Tour Eiffel. Il assure que sa langue maternelle n'aurait pas pu lui permettre de mener à bien une œuvre qui le classe parmi les grands écrivains du siècle. A 95 ans, l'auteur de *Pays lointains* naturalisé et membre de l'Académie française, entend bien «continuer ainsi jusqu'à cent ans».

Disparu récemment, un autre académicien d'origine roumaine, le dramaturge Eugène Ionesco, en était venu à chérir «le parlé de la douce France» grâce à une mère originaire de Touraine. Jeune homme, il s'était familiarisé avec toutes ses nuances lors de divers séjours. Mais c'est à 26 ans qu'il a écrit son premier texte en français: une thèse sur Baudelaire, «achevée au prix d'un travail qui m'a donné le plus grand mal», se remémorait-il.

De cette expérience, Ionesco avait acquis la certitude que «renouveler la langue, c'est renouveler la conception que



L'écrivain grec Vassili Alexakis, Prix Médicis 1995, sur le pont des Arts à Paris.

l'on a du monde». Peu après cet essai, allait sortir de sa plume la pièce *La cantatrice chauve*, qui a battu un record de longévité sur la scène parisienne depuis les années 50.

Toute une phalange d'autres écrivains d'origine roumaine a eu, ou a encore, le français en partage: E.M. Cioran, qui s'est fait le chantre du désespoir avec son *Précis de décomposition*, Mircea Eliade (*Le sacré et le profane*), Elie Wiesel, naturalisé américain, mais d'expression française (*Le mandant de Jérusalem*), Virgil Tanase (*Ils reflètent les pompiers sauvages*) qui déclarait récemment avoir opté pour le français «afin d'entrer dans la cour des grands et côtoyer ceux qui furent mes maîtres: Montaigne, Proust...».

«Une langue qui transforme le fluide en clair»

Dramaturge francophone contemporain, l'Irlandais Samuel Beckett, séduit par la France lors de sa découverte en 1928, s'était lui aussi décidé, mais à 45 ans, à passer au français. Ce fut pour écrire sa pièce la plus célèbre, *En attendant Godot*.

Venus d'Italie, le philosophe Lanza del Vasto a offert à la langue française son célèbre *Pèlerinage aux sources* et Geneviève Gennari sa *Robe rouge*. La Russie lui a apporté *La joie des pauvres* de Zou Olenbourg et des pièces comme *Ping Pong* d'Arthur Adamov. L'Espagne lui a rendu hommage avec, notamment, *Le silence des pierres* de Michel Castiello.

Le jeune auteur chinois Ya Ding, auquel des livres comme *Le sorgho rouge* ont conféré une subite renommée, possède le français à la perfection. «A travers cette langue logique qui transforme le fluide en clair, j'ai pu exprimer ce que j'aurais été incapable de dire en chinois», explique-t-il. «Elle seule présente pour moi la propriété qui me permet de matérialiser le spirituel».

Devenu, pour sa part, un fervent flâneur, le Grec Vassili Alexakis (Prix Médicis 1995 pour son livre *La langue maternelle*) balade toujours un petit magnétophone lors des se fructueuses vadrouilles parisiennes. Précieux outil pour cet écrivain qui s'attache à reproduire, non pas le français littéraire, mais celui de la rue et des

bistrots. Pour d'autres qui font, ou qui ont fait, honneur aux lettres françaises, c'est le cours de l'histoire qui leur a apporté la langue de Molière. Ils l'ont adoptée sans renier, pour autant, celles de leurs pères. C'est le cas, par exemple, du grand poète Léopold Sédar Senghor, l'ancien président du Sénégal, qui s'était fait l'apôtre de la francophonie.

De la même veine sont sortis les Libanais Georges Schéhadé (*L'émigré de Brébant*) et Andrée Chédid (*La maison sans racines*). Le Marocain Tahar ben Jelloun (*Le premier amour est toujours le dernier*, *Les raisins de la galère*), les Algériens Kaleb Yacine (*L'homme aux sandales de caoutchouc*) et Mouloud Mammeri (*Le soleil du juste*).

C'est l'éclectique Espagnol Fernando Arrabal (*Le jardin des délices*) qui suit le mieux parler de la langue française, cette «merveille de précision, d'élégance» dont il se dit amoureux.

Chaque jour, il s'étonne de constater à quel point Paris «cette Athènes moderne» attire irrésistiblement les écrivains étrangers «comme la lumière attire les papillons». Il y a là, pour lui, «quelque chose de mystérieux, de magique».

Arrabal cite péle-mêle ceux qu'il admire et qui ont choisi le français pour s'exprimer: le Tchèque Milan Kundera (*L'immortel*), par exemple. Mais aussi ceux qui poursuivent sur les rives de la Seine, une œuvre commencée dans la langue maternelle et qui, un jour peut-être à leur tour décideront d'adopter le français. ■

Claudine Canetti

Jordanie

Le français se fait entendre

Présente notamment à la radio et à la télévision jordanienne, la langue française se développe dans le royaume hachémite. Elle dispose pour cela d'un certain nombre de relais.

Le rayonnement

culturel de la France ne se limite pas aux frontières de l'hexagone. Véritable carrefour dans le monde, la France diffuse sa langue en Afrique, au Québec, aux Antilles, au Vietnam, au Liban ou au Maghreb.

La langue n'est que la porte d'un pays. Il ne suffit pas d'apprendre une langue dans des manuels scolaires. Le français, enseigné comme troisième langue en Jordanie, se développe peu à peu grâce aux efforts de certaines personnes qui font aussi connaître la civilisation et la culture françaises aux Jordaniens. C'est bien sûr dans les écoles ou les universités jordaniennes que se fait l'apprentissage du français. Mais les Jordaniens disposent aussi de nombreux outils pour cultiver leur français et leur attachement pour ce pays.

Le Centre culturel français est considéré comme la base principale de l'épanouissement de la langue française en Jordanie. Fondé en 1965, ce centre n'a pas cessé de voir le nombre de ses élèves augmenter. Les enseignements sont variés, les élèves pouvant par exemple suivre des cours traitant de la culture française. Des préparations pour des examens internationaux reconnus par les universités françaises sont aussi proposées. «Le but est de faciliter l'accès aux universités françaises pour les Jordaniens», explique Gérard Martinez, directeur du CCF à Amman.

En plus des cours, le CCF dispose aussi d'une importante bibliothèque et d'un certain nombre de CD-Roms. En sus de l'enseignement, il a bien sûr une importante fonction culturelle: régulièrement, des manifestations ont lieu au CCF, telles que des expositions de peintures, de photos, de livres ou bien des projections de films. Certains concerts sont eux organisés en dehors des murs du Centre, tout comme le festival de cinéma franco-arabe par exemple.

Pour les francophones amateurs de cinéma, il est possible de voir à Amman beaucoup de films sous-titrés en français. «Je suis le représentant de la société française Fathé-Gaumont en Jordanie», explique Samir al Sukkial, directeur du cinéma Philadelpia à Amman. «Comme la plupart des films sont traduits en arabe au Liban où le français est la deuxième langue, les films sont sous-titrés en deux langues».

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Les symboles de la Révolution

Le drapeau tricolore

Le drapeau français est tricolore: bleu, blanc et rouge. On a dit que le bleu représentait le clergé, le blanc la noblesse, le rouge le tiers état.

Il semble plutôt que Lafayette ait eu l'idée d'insérer la couleur blanche de la royauté entre la bleu et le rouge, couleurs de Paris.

S'inspirant d'un dessin de David, un décret du 15 février 1794 précisa que «le pavillon national sera formé de trois couleurs nationales, disposées en trois bandes égales, posées verticalement de manière que le bleu soit attaché à la gauche du pavillon, le blanc au milieu et le rouge flottant dans les airs».

sées ici pour faire mieux connaître la Jordanie», explique Hala Zureikat, responsable des programmes en français à la télévision jordanienne.

Si pouvoir entendre ou lire du français grâce aux médias jordanien est déjà important, le fait de pouvoir continuer à pratiquer cette langue est primordial. Ceux qui ont étudié en France ressentent particulièrement la nécessité de retrouver une ambiance «à la française». La jeune Association des Diplômés de France en est la preuve. Créée en 1990 avec le soutien de l'ambassade de France, elle compte aujourd'hui 110 membres. Avec notamment une télévision et un billard, elle accueille tous ceux qui veulent parler en français.

D'autres initiatives francophones existent encore en Jordanie, telles que la publication d'une revue littéraire francophone intitulée «En attendant». Et toutes contribuent bien sûr à développer l'usage du français dans un pays où l'anglais continue à se tailler la part du lion. ■

Oroub et Abed

L'association des diplômés de France
organise le 12 juillet à 19h00 une réception à l'occasion de la fête nationale française. Pour tout renseignement, Tel: 702 334.

Economie

La France s'exporte mieux en Jordanie

A côté de la France qui voit ses exportations vers la Jordanie augmenter, la Jordanie enregistre aussi une légère amélioration de sa balance commerciale avec la France.

A plusieurs niveaux, les relations économiques entre la France et la Jordanie s'améliorent. Dans le domaine du commerce en particulier, les exportations et les importations entre les deux pays augmentent. Les chiffres dans le tableau ci-contre en sont la preuve.

Si les exportations vers la France sont très faibles, les importations de produits français se portent elles très bien. En fait, Amman n'a pas encore grand chose à exporter vers Paris, même si les ventes annuelles de la Jordanie à la France ont été plusieurs fois multipliées depuis 1992.

En ce qui concerne les exportations, les chiffres sont encourageants, et si les tendances du premier trimestre se confirment, 1996 sera une année record pour les ventes françaises à la Jordanie. En comparaison avec les autres membres de l'Union européenne, la performance de la

France est impressionnante: les taux de croissance du commerce français avec la Jordanie dépassent les chiffres moyens pour l'UE.

C'est grâce à plusieurs facteurs que cette performance française est si bonne. Parmi eux, il faut mentionner la politique extérieure du président Jacques Chirac. Le Proche-Orient a une place assez importante dans la nouvelle vision mondiale française. Si les relations politiques franco-jordanien ne sont pas directement concernées, ce changement de politique ne peut qu'améliorer les relations entre la France et les pays arabes en général.

L'intérêt des entreprises françaises pour la région est relayé notamment par l'Agence pour la coopération technique industrielle et économique, l'Actim. Cette organisation est chargée en particulier de mieux faire connaître à l'étranger l'activité des entreprises

françaises et leur savoir-faire. Elle s'appuie pour cela sur le poste d'expansion économique de l'ambassade de France d'Amman dirigé par Christian Ponsot.

Depuis son bureau régional en Egypte, l'Actim est de plus en plus active dans le Moyen-Orient. Elle a déjà accueilli environ 8500 professionnels des pays de la région en France.

Riad al Khoury

MEBA SARL

Commerce extérieur de la Jordanie (1992-1996)

en millions de dinars

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996 premier trimestre
Importations jordaniennes totales	2214	2454	2363	2590	682
de l'UE de la France	699	814	838	859	254
Exportations jordaniennes totales	19	28	794	1005	213
vers l'UE vers la France	1	1	41	63	21

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Les symboles de la Révolution Les droits de l'Homme

Six jours de discussions sur d'abondants projets aboutissent à un texte qui proclame les droits «universels», à partir de «principes simples et incontestables».

La déclaration des droits de l'homme et du citoyen est adoptée en préambule de la Constitution le 26 août 1789. Le succès de ce texte, qui avait déjà des précédents anglais et américains, s'explique par son caractère universel, les constituants ayant essayé d'éviter toute référence aux préoccupations de leur propre pays.

Et il reste aujourd'hui aux yeux des Français l'acquis principal de la Révolution.

Fête du 14 juillet

Le Jourdain entre en Seine

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Musique

Un compositeur authentique

Installé à Paris, le compositeur franco-jordanien Patrick Lama travaille actuellement sur une nouvelle oeuvre intitulée *Canaan*, une composition contemporaine d'inspiration orientale.

Le compositeur

franco-jordanien Patrick Lama a récemment repris le chemin de l'écriture. Cas unique dans les annales de la musique orientale, Lama, qui est né à Jérusalem, est probablement l'un des très rares musiciens d'origine arabe formés sur une solide base classique occidentale et écrivant une musique orientale contemporaine. Il n'ignore pas qu'à la simple lecture de l'expression «musique orientale contemporaine» la plupart sourient et orientent la contradiction, sinon à l'impossible.

Cela ne gêne cependant pas Patrick Lama. Il est trop sincère dans sa recherche et dans son travail pour être perturbé par les sceptiques. Les jaloux ou les ignorants.

De Paris où il a élu domicile depuis quelques années, il nous a fait part de sa dernière oeuvre sur laquelle il travaille actuellement. *Canaan*. Une composition lyrique écrite pour voix et ensemble orchestral que Patrick Lama conçoit pour 5 chanteurs solistes, un orchestre de 20 à 25 instrumentistes et un chœur de 10 chanteurs.

Le thème de *Canaan* est basé sur l'épopée et la mythologie des Cananéens, civilisation méditerranéenne remontant au deuxième millénaire avant notre ère. Les textes cananéens sont en vers, tirés de tablettes trouvées à Ras Shamra dans le nord de la Syrie, près de Lattaquié. Cette découverte, faite en 1929, vint à l'époque jeter une lumière nouvelle sur l'histoire ancienne du Proche Orient. Imprégné par cette civilisation, Patrick Lama souhaite révéler la beauté et la richesse de ces textes à travers une création musicale de style contemporain.

L'inspiration du compositeur a déjà donné naissance à plusieurs oeuvres qui ont toujours

suscité un vif intérêt à l'écoute.

Qu'elles captivent par leur inspiration réelle et leur originalité ou qu'elles soulèvent de gros points d'interrogation, elles ne laissent jamais l'auditeur indifférent. Publié en 1987, un recueil de morceaux pour piano - joué par le compositeur - comprenant les superbes *Images d'Orient*, *Quatre Préludes* et *Huit Variations sur un Thème Palestinien*, révèle les racines profondes et la maîtrise d'écriture d'un musicien qui sort de l'ordinaire.

Lors d'un inoubliable concert au Centre culturel royal d'Amman en mai 1992, Patrick Lama interpréta les *Images d'Orient* ainsi que la musique qu'il écrivit pour un poème de Badr Shaker El Sayyab, *Le Fleuve et la Mort*. Forcé fut alors aux plus sceptiques de reconnaître que le contemporain pouvait être émouvant.

Une évolution musicale naturelle

Patrick Lama parle du débat qui secoue le monde musical arabe, fissuré entre les traditionalistes et les modernes. Sans se réfugier dans l'antidote simpliste qui consisterait à donner raison aux uns et tort aux autres - et vice versa - Patrick Lama critique les prétendus modernes: «il ne suffit pas d'introduire quelques artifices à une structure traditionnelle pour prétendre y avoir apporté un souffle nouveau».



Patrick Lama au piano accompagnant en 1992 à Amman la soprano Tania Tamari-Nasir.

De même au sujet des prétendus traditionalistes: «présenter et faire vivre les traditions musicales ne signifie pas qu'il faille nécessairement les mettre en opposition avec les créations modernes ou contemporaines».

Le compositeur est extrêmement réaliste. Pour lui, il ne s'agit donc non pas seulement de respecter les traditions, mais d'en faire un point de départ, afin d'évoluer vers une écriture résolument moderne. Il évoque à ce titre l'évolution naturelle et enrichissante de la musique occidentale qui est passée d'abord du grégorien au baroque, puis au classique, au romantique, au sériel et enfin au contemporain.

Le passage naturel d'une musique à l'autre, qu'elle soit occidentale ou orientale, ne

peut se faire sans rigueur, sans technique, sans connaissance historique et, Lama le répète, sans authenticité.

Qu'ils appartiennent au 16ème ou au 20ème siècle, la plupart des compositeurs célèbres ont dû affronter un jour la même difficulté: celle de trouver l'aide financière nécessaire à la réalisation de leurs grandes oeuvres.

Patrick Lama n'est pas une exception. Pour la création de l'oeuvre lyrique qu'est *Canaan*, il n'a jusqu'à présent reçu que des encouragements verbaux et de belles lettres de recommandation.

Il garde l'espoir cependant que lorsque la partition sera terminée, l'aspect matériel du projet ne posera plus de problème.

Jean-Claude Elias

Découverte

Au centre de la culture arabe

Depuis son inauguration en 1987, l'Institut du monde arabe a reçu plus de dix millions de visiteurs. Sa majestueuse architecture de verre et d'aluminium fait désormais partie du paysage parisien.

L'idée d'installer

sur les bords de la Seine - une vitrine occidentale de la culture arabo-islamique - est née dans les années 70: d'une volonté commune de la France et de 22 pays arabes, une institution originale, sans équivalent ailleurs, verrait le jour. Ce fut l'Institut du monde arabe (Ima).

Une charte en précisait les objectifs: «faire davantage connaître le monde arabe - animer une recherche en profondeur sur sa langue, ses valeurs culturelles et spirituelles - favoriser les échanges (en particulier dans le domaine des sciences et des techniques) entre la France et les pays membres - contribuer au développement des relations de ces derniers avec l'Europe».

L'Institut issu de cette volonté commune est placé sous l'autorité d'un Haut conseil composé de représentants de tous les Etats membres. Son conseil d'administration est à 50% français et à 50% arabe. La France supporte pour sa part 60% de son financement et ses partenaires 40%.

Nommé pour trois ans, M. Camille Cabana est l'actuel président de l'Ima. Il est épaulé par un directeur-général de nationalité marocaine, Mohammed Nebboua, un juriste international qui a, naguère, représenté son pays à l'Onu.

Noblesse des lignes, lumière, transparence... L'architecture de

l'Institut du monde arabe lui a valu d'être qualifié de huitième merveille de Paris. Elle fait songer à un grand navire blanc venu s'ancreur là, sur la rive-gauche de la Seine, face au chevet de Notre-Dame, la cathédrale médiévale où s'exprime la ferveur chrétienne.

Dominant un parvis de marbre, la façade sud de l'Ima étonne le visiteur. L'architecte Jean Nouvel, maître-d'oeuvre de l'ensemble, l'a traitée à la manière d'un gigantesque moucharabieh, en s'inspirant des mosaïques de l'Alhambra de Grenade.

Sur les neuf étages se juxtaposent 242 diaphragmes d'aluminium d'un mètre carré chacun. Ceux-ci s'ouvrent et se referment, comme les yeux des chats, en fonction de la lumière extérieure: c'est une cellule photoélectrique qui en dose l'intensité. A l'exploit technique s'ajoute ici un effet visuel étonnant.

Autre innovation spectaculaire: la tour des livres. Cent mille ouvrages tapissent les murs d'un cylindre de marbre blanc qui, du rez-de-chaussée au sixième étage, s'élève en une spirale hélicoïdale évoquant le minaret d'une ancienne mosquée.

«L'Institut se veut une usine de culture, un lieu où le public découvre toujours quelque chose», déclare l'un de ses animateurs. S'y succèdent conférences et débats, tandis que le théâtre, la musique, le cinéma, l'audiovisuel, les spectacles de danses sont sans cesse renouvelés.

Même les gourmands y trouvent leur compte puisqu'ils peuvent découvrir ici les secrets de la gastronomie orientale. Les jeunes disposent eux d'un atelier où ils s'adonnent à diverses activités: à la musique arabe, ou la calligraphie par exemple.

L'Ima accueille environ un million et demi de visiteurs chaque année. Après les Européens, les Japonais et les Américains sont les plus nombreux à y découvrir le musée permanent aux centaines d'oeuvres illustrant la diversité des cultures d'un monde souvent mal connu et la profonde unité de ses arts.

Mais ce sont surtout les expositions temporaires qui font



L'Ima, un grand navire blanc ancré sur la Seine à Paris.

coïdale évoquant le minaret d'une ancienne mosquée.

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la renommée de l'Ima bien au-delà des frontières. Certains comptent parmi les plus belles propositions au public, à Paris, ces dernières années. Ce fut le cas, récemment, avec *Syrie: mémoire et civilisation*. Puis de *Delacroix: le voyage au Maroc*, et de *Vingt-cinq siècles de céramiques en Tunisie*.

L'Ima installera bientôt l'exposition *A l'ombre d'Avicenne* qui, à la fin de l'année 1996, portera un regard croisé sur l'apport du monde arabe et musulman au développement de la médecine occidentale.

Et déjà l'on prépare celle qu'il consacra aux Fatimides. Particulièrement prestigieuse, en 1997, dans le calendrier des manifestations organisées pour le bicentenaire de l'expédition de Bonaparte en Egypte. Un épisode, parmi d'autres, des relations entretenues par la France et le monde arabe depuis l'Empereur Charlemagne.

Pierre Albert Lambert

Une saison jordanienne

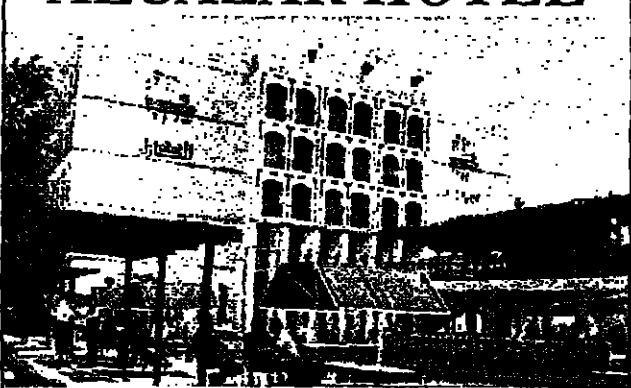
De juin à août 1997, une exposition proposera à l'Ima un voyage dans le temps à travers divers sites archéologiques jordaniens. Elle présentera à la fois les richesses archéologiques et les techniques grâce auxquelles elles ont été découvertes. A travers quelques sites emblématiques, différentes époques seront présentées au public.

Cette exposition sera l'une des manifestations qui auront lieu l'année prochaine à Paris dans le cadre d'une saison jordanienne. Parallèlement, de la mi-mars à la mi-mai, l'Hôtel de Ville de Paris accueillera une exposition intitulée «Voyage dans le temps» qui se concentre essentiellement sur l'art contemporain jordanien. Le voyage des visiteurs commencera notamment avec des mosaïques ou des costumes traditionnels. Des caillouteux posés sur du sable jordanien les amèneront ensuite vers différents tableaux et sculptures.

A côté des oeuvres de deux sculpteurs, Mona Saoudi et Samir Tabba, seront présentées les toiles de onze artistes: Hind Nasser, Wajid Ali, Souha Shoman, Ghada Dahdaleh, Mawal Kattah, Roula Shoukairy, Khalid Kreis, Amor Kammash, Ahmed Nawash, et Nabil Shehadeh. Ali Jahri présentera lui un travail d'architecture. Des photos sur Pétra de Hala Hilmi et des vieux clichés provenant de l'Ecole biblique de Jérusalem seront aussi à l'Hôtel de Ville.

Le troisième volet de cette saison jordanienne se déroulera dans le grand magasin Printemps qui proposera à la vente de l'artisanat jordanien.

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Fête du 14 juillet

Le Jour d'été en Seine

A l'occasion de la fête nationale française, le Jourdain et le Star jettent un pont entre la Jordanie et la France en publiant un supplément spécial de sept pages.

Les symboles de la Révolution

La prise de la Bastille

Événement tout à fait secondaire dans l'histoire de la Révolution, la prise de la Bastille a été transformée en symbole de la victoire du peuple sur la tyrannie, incarnée par cette vieille prison où l'on enfermait aux siècles précédents les victimes des lettres de cachet.

Le 14 juillet 1789 au matin, une foule de partisans de la Révolution, inquiets de la concentration des troupes autour de Paris, marche sur La Bastille pour y chercher la poudre qui lui fait défaut.

Le gouverneur de La Bastille panique, et une fusillade commence. Elle durera quatre heures, jusqu'à ce que le gouverneur capitule.

Journée du 14 juillet

Entre accordéon et discours politique

Un certain nombre d'événements marquent chaque année la journée du 14 juillet en France. Du défilé militaire sur les Champs-Élysées à celui des coureurs du Tour de France sur les routes de province, portrait d'une journée tricolore

Lorsqu'arrive le 14 juillet, la France est déjà rentrée depuis quelques jours dans sa torpeur estivale: les grandes villes se vident tandis que les campagnes retrouvent, elles, une éphémère activité grâce aux touristes qui viennent y chercher un peu de repos.

Pour tous les vacanciers, le 14 juillet rime avec bal et feu d'artifice. Traditionnellement, un bal a lieu le 13 au soir. Une fête populaire qui a eu lieu

pour la première fois dès le 1790, plusieurs manifestations ayant alors été organisées pour commémorer la prise de la Bastille, dont un bal sur l'emplacement des ruines de la prison.

Pour beaucoup de jeunes, ce bal du 14 juillet est une première sortie. L'ambiance est familiale, et la musique alterne tous les styles.

L'accordéon reste l'instrument roi de cette soirée grâce à

la musette et à la valse.

A Paris et dans les grandes villes, on adapte cette fête en fonction des tendances du moment. On trouve par exemple actuellement de plus en plus de «bal techno» où le piano à bretelles a bien du mal à se faire entendre.

Vers minuit, un feu d'artifice interrompt la musique. Des fusées éclairent alors le ciel de France, plus ou moins longtemps en fonction du budget de chaque commune. Les pétards sont eux aussi un des éléments incontournables de cette soirée, tout comme les incendies de poubelles qui surviennent à cette occasion.

La première commémoration en 1790 avait aussi donné lieu à un important défilé militaire à Paris. Depuis, c'est dans toute la France que l'armée fait défiler ses troupes à l'occasion du 14 juillet.

Un événement qui rassemble à Paris une foule impressionnante sur les Champs-Élysées, et que les Français peuvent suivre en direct à la télévision.

Le petit écran est devenu un instrument indispensable de la journée du 14 juillet. Profitant d'un jour férié, les travailleurs comme les vacanciers zappent d'un défilé à l'autre.

Après les militaires, c'est aux coureurs du Tour de France de

faire le spectacle. Jusqu'à l'arrivée finale fin juillet, cette compétition cycliste attire pendant près de trois semaines des millions de téléspectateurs. Les coureurs français essaient alors chaque année de gagner l'étape du 14 juillet pour faire rentrer la Marseillaise sur le podium.

Politiquement, cette journée est la plus importante de l'été. Depuis une vingtaine d'années, le président de la République répond en direct aux journalistes à cette occasion le 14 juillet.

Une interview qui se déroule désormais à la mi-journée dans le jardin de l'Élysée où le président de la République reçoit un certain nombre de personnalités au cours d'une garden

party.

Pour modifier un peu le déroulement de cette journée portant la marque de François Mitterrand, Jacques Chirac avait décidé l'année dernière d'inviter 4000 jeunes à la garden-party de l'Élysée, invitant ensuite certains d'entre eux à déjeuner avec lui.

Pour beaucoup de «juilletistes», le 14 juillet est en fait devenu le début officiel des vacances, l'année scolaire ayant tendance à grignoter de plus en plus sur le mois de juillet.

Cette date marque le début d'une période de plus d'un mois pendant laquelle la France tourne au ralenti.

Olivier Bras



Un peu partout en France, les accordéons ressortent le 14 juillet pour le traditionnel bal populaire.

Gastronomie

La France à la carte

Bien que les adresses ne soient pas nombreuses, il est possible de manger à la française à Amman. Voici un petit guide des établissements «mis au goût français».

Un coup d'oeil

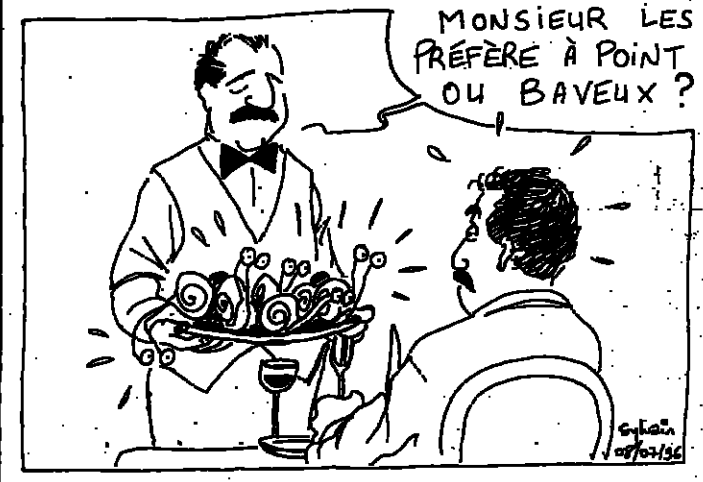
sur le calendrier révèle votre estomac: pour un 14 juillet, un repas à la française s'impose. Mais à Amman, la chose ne s'annonce pas facile. Elle est pourtant possible, notamment dans quelques établissements assez luxueux.

Pour ce qui est du petit-déjeuner, le Moka café vous propose toutes les viennoiseries indispensables: croissants, pains au chocolat ainsi que de nombreuses pâtisseries préparées par les mains expertes de Mona qui vous offre au choix mille-feuilles, éclairs ou choux à la crème. Avec bien sûr pour les accompagner un café expresso.

Chez Hilda, vous retrouverez l'ambiance d'un salon de thé parisien. L'accueil y est sympathique, Hilda Hoshi se chargeant elle-même de vous faire les honneurs de la maison. A la carte: charlottes, tartes aux fraises...

Une carte que vous pourrez retrouver aussi chez Babiche qui est un des salons de thé les plus fréquentés de Shmeisani. Sûrement grâce à Hamid Daoud qui se charge depuis 23 ans de faire meringues, vache-rins et autres gourmandises.

Si vous êtes à la recherche d'un «repas complet à la française», vous avez alors le choix entre deux adresses. Tout d'abord, La maison verte. Ce restaurant au cadre luxueux et à l'accueil chaleureux offre une carte variée. Son chef, Gassan



Nasralla, a officié dans plusieurs restaurants en France. Il en garde le goût des plats simples et raffinés, proposant entre autres spécialités une charbonnade de boeuf ou une entrecôte sauce café de Paris.

Vous pourrez accompagner ces plats d'un Saint-Émilion ou d'un Chablis ou suivre les conseils du sommelier. Avec en dessert des profiteroles, vous devez vous attendre à une addition oscillant entre 15 et 25 dinars.

Avec sa terrasse ombragée et son décor à la française, l'Olivier est le deuxième pôle de la cuisine française à Amman. Son chef Mourad Zakoni propose en entrée des escargots de Bourgogne ou des cuisses de grenouille et sa spécialité, la salade riche. Vous pourrez ensuite continuer avec un cœur de filet farci aux pistaches, une

volaille aux cerises ou un poulet d'amour. Un repas pour lequel vous devrez payer 17 dinars au minimum.

Si votre bourse ne vous permet pas d'aller dans ces restaurants, il ne vous reste plus qu'une solution pour satisfaire vos envies de gastronomes français: vous mettre vous-même en cuisine. Quelques supermarchés proposent des produits français, et surtout Abela où vous trouverez fromages et charcuteries. Certaines boutiques comme Albina vous proposeront elles un large choix de vins français. Mais vous ne pourrez alors vous en prendre qu'à vous si ce que vous avez dans votre assiette ne correspond pas vraiment à l'idée que vous vous faisiez de la cuisine française.

Mona Quaddoumi

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Les symboles de la Révolution

De la Liberté à Marianne

La Liberté, avec ses attributs classiques - le bonnet, le pique, le faisceau - déjà largement représentée avant la Révolution, trouve, dès 1789, une figuration féminine martiale, conquérante, agressive contre l'ennemi, correspondant aux revendications révolutionnaires, mais le plus souvent apaisante, incarnant l'image d'un régime qui se veut tranquille et rassuré.

La III^{ème} République la retrouvera à l'occasion de la célébration du centenaire de la Révolution, moment clef de l'affirmation républicaine, sous le nom de Marianne, l'imposant comme la représentation officielle de la France à travers tableaux, statues, bustes ou timbres.

Fête du 14 juillet

Le Jour d'histoire en Seine

A l'occasion de la fête nationale française, le Jourdain et le Star jettent leurs ponts entre la Jordanie et la France en publiant un supplément spécial de sept pages.

Coupe du Monde 1998

Le compte à rebours a commencé

La France se prépare activement à accueillir l'édition 1998 de la Coupe du monde de football. Un événement qu'elle n'a pas organisé depuis soixante ans et qu'elle attend avec impatience.

Jeux Olympiques

Lille en lice pour les jeux de 2004

Alors que les Jeux Olympiques d'Atlanta sont sur le point de commencer, la France pense déjà à 2004. C'est la ville de Lille, métropole située au nord du pays, qui sera sa candidate.

Assis sur le

de la butte, le conducteur de travaux profite d'une pause pour griller une cigarette. Au loin se dessinent le Sacré-cœur de Montmartre et la basilique de Saint-Denis. Pourtant le véritable spectacle se situe à quinze mètres en contrebas: un ballet ininterrompu de camions témoigne de l'activité incessante d'un gigantesque chantier. Un chantier sur lequel s'agite du matin au soir une armée d'ouvriers.

Nous sommes à Saint-Denis, à quelques kilomètres au Nord de Paris, sur le site du futur Grand Stade de France. C'est dans cette arène de 80 000 places que sera donné, le 10 juin 1998, le coup d'envoi de la Coupe du Monde de football.

La Coupe du Monde de football, le Mondial 98 est déjà commencée, commente Noël de Saint-Pulgent, délégué interministériel à l'événement.

Pour les responsables de la Coupe du Monde, aucun doute: cette ellipse de deux milliards de francs (1400 millions de dollars) sera prête pour accueillir l'édition 98 du Tournoi des cinq nations de rugby. Actuellement les piliers en béton sortant de terre et les gradins sont en construction. La mise en place du toit de l'ouvrage, une soucoupe de verre lumineuse d'une surface de six hectares et d'un poids de 9000 tonnes (comparable à celui de la tour Eiffel), constituera le véritable défi technique de cette oeuvre gigantesque élaborée par le quatuor d'architectes Macary-Zubler-Costantini-Regemba.

Mais la Coupe du Monde ne sera pas uniquement le Stade de France. Le tournoi final se déroulera également dans neuf villes françaises: Bordeaux, Lens, Lyon, Marseille, Montpellier, Paris (Parc des Princes), Saint-Etienne et Toulouse. La Fédération internationale de football (FIFA) impose des normes très strictes aux organisateurs, des travaux doivent également être entrepris sur chacun des sites (aménagement ou constructions de tribunes, centres de presse, de salons de réception, réfection des vestiaires, etc.). C'est à Marseille que les transformations seront les plus importantes. La rénovation du Stade-Vélodrome englobera à elle seule plus du quart de la somme allouée à la modernisation de l'ensemble des stades de province, soit 273 millions de francs (54,6 millions de dollars) sur 888,5 (177,7 millions de dollars).

D'un point de vue sportif, le coup d'envoi officiel de la Coupe du Monde 1998 a été donné le 12 décembre 1995 avec le tirage au sort effectué par le footballeur Alexis Lalas et le tennisman français Yannick Noah.

«Plus universelle que jamais, cette Coupe du Monde fera des déçus parmi les 172 nations inscrites. Mais pour les 30 pays heureux qualifiés, quel plaisir de retrouver le Brésil et la France» affirme Michel Platini, co-président du comité d'organisation de la Coupe du Monde.

D'ici deux ans, la construction et la rénovation des stades sera terminée. La Poste aura tout juste émis son douzième et dernier timbre commémoratif de l'événement. On connaîtra aussi le nom des joueurs des équipes qualifiées. La Coupe du Monde pourra enfin commencer.

Stéphane Garnier

Ce sera Lille.

Ainsi en a décidé le Comité national olympique et sportif français (CNOSF), qui devait arbitrer - c'était une première sans son histoire - entre la capitale régionale du Nord-Pas-de-Calais et Lyon.

L'agglomération lilloise défendra donc les couleurs françaises face à Rio de Janeiro, Buenos Aires, Saint-Petersbourg, San Juan de Portorico, Stockholm, Rome, Istanbul, Le Cap, peut-être aussi Boston, Osaka, Pékin, Athènes.

Concurrence redoutable mais qui n'impressionne pas les gens du Nord. Car si leur expérience des rendez-vous sportifs à grande échelle est plutôt mince (la course cycliste Paris-Roubaix et la dernière Coupe d'Europe d'athlétisme), leur dossier olympique est solide. Et il fallait qu'il le fût pour que le CNOSF le préfère à celui de la région lyonnaise, organisatrice de nombreux championnats d'Europe et du monde ainsi que des Jeux Olympiques d'hiver à Grenoble et Albertville.

Euro-métropole franco-belge, l'agglomération lilloise compte 1,5 millions d'habitants du côté français et 500 000 du côté belge de la frontière. Au cœur du réseau TGV nord-européen, Lille est à 30 minutes de Bruxelles, à moins d'une heure de Paris, à deux heures de Londres via le tunnel sous la Manche. Cent millions d'Européens peuvent se retrouver dans les tribunes en deux heures maximum.

Les athlètes auront leur village flambant neuf dans le calme et la verdure, à mi-chemin du beffroi de l'Hôtel de ville et de la gare TGV. Les équipements seront installés, dans leur majorité, le long d'un «arc olympique», de 20 kilomètres, desservi par une voie routière rapide, le tramway et le métro automatique. Assister aux autres compétitions ne nécessitera pas plus d'une heure de trajet, à l'exception des sports nautiques, prévus sur le littoral de la mer du Nord, à une centaine de kilomètres. Sur les 27 sites, 14 existent déjà et seront améliorés, 5 sont en construction, les autres restent à bâtir.

L'Europe en toile de fond

Outre la facilité d'accès pour une immense foule de spectateurs et la rapidité de liaison pour les sportifs, l'ensemble du dispositif présente l'avantage d'être respectueux de l'environnement: des transports peu polluants, une voie routière paysagère, des matériaux recyclables. Il faut dire que le Conseil régional Nord-Pas-de-Calais est le seul à avoir une présidente politiquement écologiste (mouvement des Verts).

Devant le CNOSF, Pierre Mauroy, maire de Lille, ancien Premier ministre sous François Mitterrand, a plaidé «la candidature citoyenne» et «la candidature de la passion». Candidature citoyenne, parce que si le projet a été lancé par des responsables universitaires (c'est un professeur d'université qui a eu l'idée), économiques, culturels et politiques, il a été massivement adopté et soutenu par la population du bassin lillois. Une pétition lancée en septembre a rapidement recueilli 100 000 signatures. Fenêtres et vitrines multiplient à l'infini l'écho du slogan «la flamme est en nous», expression du souhait populaire.

Candidature de la passion donc aussi, comme en témoigne cette «flamme» des habitants à se mobiliser et des organisateurs à convaincre. Le nom de l'association pour la candidature, Lille-Europe Olympique (LEO) 2004, repris dans le titre Leogiciel du CD-Rom commercialisé qui supporte le dossier, indique assez vers quel horizon européen et olympique tous se tournent. En effet cette année-là pourrait marquer une nouvelle étape dans l'édification européenne.

S'appuyant sur la coïncidence des jeux avec cet événement, Pierre Mauroy a donné à la candidature de sa ville, bâtie près d'une frontière plusieurs fois déplacée au long de l'Histoire par les guerres, «le sens de la paix et de la jeunesse».

Jean-Marc Dupuich

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Situé au cœur d'Amman dans un cadre luxueux et raffiné, l'institut d'Amman est le dernier né de la ligne Orlane. Equipé d'un matériel ultra-moderne et dirigé par un personnel hautement qualifié, cet institut est le premier de chez Orlane inauguré dans le Moyen-Orient.

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The party's over for ruling parties across the globe

By Tyler Marshall
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

BERLIN—In India, the Congress (I) Party, which led the world's most populous democracy to independence half a century ago and had dominated its politics ever since, is unceremoniously thrashed in national elections.

Farther east, the Liberal Democrats, who ruled Japan for 38 uninterrupted years until 1993, garner a paltry 22 percent voter preference in a recent opinion poll before recovering to 36 percent. And in Italy, the Christian Democrats, whose ministers led or served in 52 consecutive post-World War II governments, simply disintegrated along with the political system they had shaped.

Within a few short years, three of the globe's most enduring "democratic dynasties" have fallen, pulled down by an accumulation of factors ranging from massive corruption to an inability to adapt to the new realities and technologies of the post-Cold War order.

Their fall also is part of a broad search for fresh values and political identities under way nearly everywhere in a world no longer defined by the clash of grand ideologies.

"All democracies are in a stage of soul-searching," said Takeshi Kondo, director of the office of political and economic

research of C. Itoh, a major trading company in Tokyo. "Self-identification is a common problem in Japan, the US and even Europe."

Jean-Marie Guehenno, author of *The End of the Nation State* and former French ambassador to the European Union in Brussels, Belgium, echoed this analysis, citing growing voter hesitancy to accept a single ideological "package" as one reason for the decline of once-dominant parties. "The idea that one political party has all the answers is passe," he said in an interview. "We're in for a long period of inventing new political ideas."

The larger consequences of all this are unclear, but one fact is certain: In such a climate, other perennial giants are wobbling.

Top strategists in the world's oldest ruling political party—Mexico's Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI—claim that a major overhaul is needed to survive devastating losses in key state elections last year.

Speaking at a recent televised roundtable discussion, party President Santiago Onate talked of "a catharsis that has been going on in the PRI for 19 months."

"What is essential for the PRI now is internal reform," he said.

In Western Europe, long-ruling parties also face hard

times as they struggle to redefine themselves and grapple with an array of problems that suddenly seem beyond their grasp.

"Italy is an extreme case of what's happening elsewhere in Europe," Guehenno said. "New faces, new ideas—this will happen elsewhere too. In France, there is a simmering crisis, and in Germany it's only the dominance of the chancellor Helmut Kohl that delays this change."

In Germany, periodic opinion polls conducted during the past 30 years by the Allensbach Polling Institute show that the level of respect accorded politicians as a group has dropped more than 50 percent since the early 1970s.

Politicians themselves list a variety of reasons for the disenchantment.

"On one hand the problems we face are steadily more complex, but on the other governments are expected to take care of everything," said Annemie Neyts, who served in the Belgian government during the 1980s and is a member of the European Parliament. "And it's not just the expectations of the public. It's politicians pretending they have the answers. It becomes a vicious circle."

Guehenno argues that today's national politicians are consistently faced with a range of problems that are better dealt with either on a more local level.

But for many, the forces unleashed by the end of the Cold War have been especially decisive in ending the rule of dynasties that once seemed unassailable and now threaten others.

Japan's Liberal Democrats and Italy's Christian Democrats, for example, stumbled in part because they lost their cherished role as their nation's chief defender against communism. With communism con-

quered, voters suddenly free to explore alternatives have done exactly that.

The end of the Cold War also left these long-dominant parties open for the first time to aggressive criminal investigation of corruption, a fact that has produced some stunning results.

Giulio Andreotti, the seven-time Italian premier and Christian Democrat kingpin, is on trial, accused of collusion with the Sicilian Cosa Nostra and of being an accessory to

the murder of a political journalist.

The Japanese media have highlighted links between former Prime Minister, Noboru Takeshita and gangsters—stories that would have been unthinkable in earlier years.

Some see the developments as part of a long-overdue cleansing of the political process that will bring fresh faces, new ideas and an injection of hope to stale political environments.

Others, however, point to a downside, arguing that whatever hope is generated by the collapse of the old order will be short-lived. The real end result of this upheaval, they maintain, is invariably heightened political uncertainty, increased instability and weak, inexperienced and ineffectual governments.

Following the Congress electoral collapse in India, uncertainty is one of the few certainties. The first post-Congress government, which took power in mid-May, lasted two weeks, while its successor is a shaky 13-party minority coalition led by HD Deve Gowda, a figure with virtually no political base outside his home state of Karnataka.

Much like Mexico's PRI, the Congress was so dominant, so all-encompassing and so lacking in ideology that it became an easy and natural home for all who sought a share of political power.

Leading Congress figures, such as the country's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, and his daughter and successor, Indira Gandhi, are so revered nationally that they have effectively entered the pantheon of Hindu gods in many parts of rural India.

But after the 1991 death of her son Rajiv Gandhi, also at the hands of an assassin, Congress seemed to lose both its direction and its last nationally recognized political

figure.

In the end, it was the rise of Hindu nationalism among the northern middle class and the government's failure to deliver on the populist promises of a better life made to millions at the lower end of the country's social scale that gave birth to an array of small caste-based parties that eventually brought Congress down. In Mexico, the PRI's crisis also stems from a failure to adjust to new realities—namely, a new level of democracy that is beginning to take root, driven by free-market economic reforms and the emergence of an aggressive, privately owned (and therefore more independent) media.

Today, privately owned national television networks and scores of private radio stations have radically altered the PRI's playing field, forcing it to contend with public opinion. "Radio and television...have transformed the relationship between government and the people and between political parties and the public in a transcendental way," said Carlos Rea Martinez, a federal legislator and a highly influential ruling party member of the House of Deputies. "It obliges politicians and their representatives to be better prepared...to be more aware of what's going on."



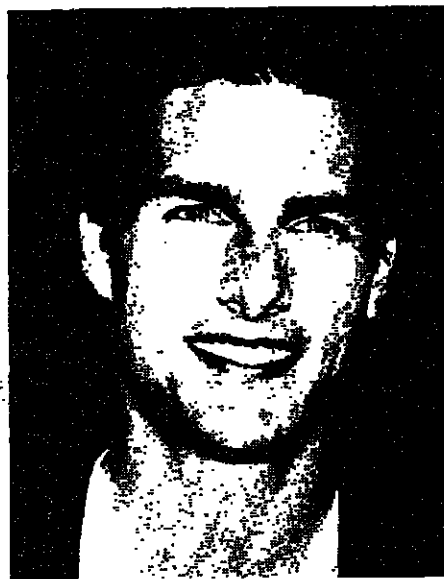
Cruising through the fantasy of Mission Impossible

TOM CRUISE is suspended from a ceiling, trying to download some of the CIA's most sensitive files in a room wired to respond to anything untoward. In the ducting space, Jean Reno strains to keep a grip on the wire to which Cruise clings. A mouse ambles up. If Reno twitches, they are doomed. Then a bead of sweat falls from Cruise's face in slow motion. If it hits the floor, doom strikes again. If the CIA officer returns from drinking his spiked coffee, doom will strike a third time.

The best of Mission Impossible lies in such scenes. They are outrageous, derivative and great fun. Not since Hitchcock's heyday, perhaps, has a director generated such cheeky suspense, twisting an audience around his little finger. The person responsible is Brian De Palma, who also shows his virtuoso skills by exploding a Prague restaurant and tying a helicopter to a TGV train hurtling from its London terminus through the Channel Tunnel. Since TGV trains only run in France, Cruise's mission at this point is truly impossible, but it makes a spectacular climax.

In between the debris and

razzledazzle, however, you may be tumbing your thumbs. The scriptwriters are no slouches; between them, they have written China Town, Schindler's List and Jurassic Park. But with the Cold War over, Robert Towne, Steven Zaillian and David Koepf clearly had problems re-animating the television series that gave such delight from 1966 to 1973. Easy enough to revive Lalo Schiffrin's bouncy theme tune, or the instructions handed out to agents on a tape that destructs in five seconds. Far harder to make the American Government's Impossible Missions Force relevant to the 1990s. With their fancy gadgets and facial disguises they seem only a few steps from the men from



Tom Cruise

UNCLE.

As Cruise strives to identify the traitor selling the names of undercover agents, too many characters are killed off too quickly, or stand by idly, or suffer from bizarre casting. Vanessa Redgrave, as the information trader Max, overloads her scenes with class; while

Emmanuelle Beart, in her English-language debut, disappears into a hole as the wife of Jon Voight's Jim Phelps (the only character to survive from the TV series). She looks stunning dressed by Armani, but seems afraid her dialogue will bite her.

Cruise himself does not help the film to find a human face, for this particular qualities of blue-eyes charm are wasted on his action hero, Ethan Hunt by name, who spends much of his time leaping around, surviving explosions, and disguising himself as someone else. He is also burdened with a terrible haircut, a porcupine bristle. Since Cruise is the film's co-producer as well as its box-office magnet, he must have wanted things this way.

At least the hair does not intrude as Cruise is buffeted by fire, water, or a high-speed train. These are the moments worth savouring: it's just one of the peculiarities of modern Hollywood to pin a movie to a star and then crowd him out with special effects. The film, incidentally, was made far from California in Prague and our own Pinewood studios. Hollywood travels far these days. ■

The Times

World wide web is newspaper capital of the world

By John M. Moran
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

WHERE ELSE but Washington, DC, can you walk down the street and bump into a row of newspaper boxes half a block long?

The Washington Post, the Wall Street Journal, the Los Angeles Times, the New York Times, the Chicago Tribune, the Miami Herald, the Philadelphia Inquirer, USA Today, the Washington Times and more are all available in one place for a quarter or two or three.

But the nation's capital has been usurped as the newspaper capital of the world. Today that honor belongs to the Internet's World Wide Web.

In the last two years, virtually every major newspaper in America has found its way onto the Web in whole or in part. As a result, newspaper junkies can make themselves bleary-eyed reading dailies from all around the country without leaving their chairs.

Among the most recent arrivals are The Washington Post and the Minneapolis-St. Paul Star Tribune. They join an already stunning array of other electronic newspapers, including the Wall Street

Journal, Los Angeles Times, New York Times, Chicago Tribune, Philadelphia Inquirer and Miami Herald.

And those are just some of the big boys. Many regional newspapers as well as local newspapers are also available over the Internet. Editor & Publisher, the newspaper industry trade publication, reports that there are now 1,152 newspapers represented somewhere on the World Wide Web.

At first blush, this may seem a bit odd. Newspapers are profit-making ventures, after all. And few, if any, of these publications are making money by offering their news for free on the Web.

But even notoriously conservative newspaper publishers recognize that the Web is a radical and powerful publishing medium. Far better to spend some money exploring this new medium than to ignore the biggest competitive threat since television.

That approach won't last forever, though. Some day—probably soon—

newspaper executives are going to start pushing for a return on their investment. When that happens, unlimited free access to their Web sites could be the first casualty.

In fact, the free ride may already be coming to an end. The Wall Street Journal, which has a justifiably high opinion of the value of its news content, recently announced that it will begin charging for its on-line edition starting 31 July. (Those who register before 31 July can continue reading the electronic Journal free until 31 Aug.) Undoubtedly, many of its competitors will soon follow.

Whether all on-line newspapers will charge for access remains to be seen. The economics of electronic publishing have yet to be worked out.

The best guess, though, is probably not. Newspapers make most of their money from selling advertising, not selling the papers themselves. The bigger the audience, the bigger the advertising revenue.

Thus, we could see many free newspapers on the Web financed entirely by advertising. Without the cost of paper printing and distributing to contend with, a free electronic newspaper becomes at least theoretically possible. So, if you like newspapers, and you don't mind reading on-line, get out there and surf. ■

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Innovative surgery's skeptics express change of heart

The technique "is going to change heart surgery in the same way that coronary artery bypass did 20 years ago," added Dr. William J. Logue of Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Angeles, who has performed the surgery 11 times in Brazil and four here. "It's a wonderful feeling to see patients who couldn't walk return to a normal life."

By Thomas H. Maugh II
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

LOS ANGELES—When Dr. Randal Batista spoke at a Los Angeles heart meeting last month, cardiologists clustered excitedly around him afterward, practically begging a photographer to take a picture of them with him.

But two years earlier, when the Brazilian surgeon had attempted to talk about his results at a much larger heart meeting in Boston, he had been shouted down and nearly ejected forcibly.

"They were wild," Batista said. "They wanted to kill me." The source of their wrath was an unusual surgical procedure Batista had developed at his "jungle hospital" to treat people with enlarged hearts.

Contravening the conventional wisdom of heart surgeons, who preach that healthy heart tissue should be preserved at all costs, Batista cuts out large segments of the oversized heart and "throws them to the cats," leaving behind a smaller heart that is able to pump blood more efficiently.

Batista has performed this "heart reduction" surgery on more than 350 patients, and the results, witnesses say, have been remarkable. Invalid patients who were on death's doorstep have returned to work and are leading normal lives that they thought were forever beyond their reach.

The dramatic turnaround from rejection to burgeoning acceptance has happened in the last year, as more than two dozen heart surgeons from the United States and Europe have trekked to Batista's tiny hospital to learn the technique and adapt it for their own practices.

Skeptical at first, they have become proponents of a procedure that has the potential for treating tens of thousands of patients whose hearts are failing.

The technique "is going to change heart surgery in the same way that coronary artery bypass did 20 years ago," added Dr. William J. Logue of Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Angeles, who has performed the surgery 11 times in Brazil and four here. "It's a wonderful feeling to see patients who couldn't walk return to a normal life."

Proponents and critics alike, however, agree that it is still a highly experimental procedure that needs to be subjected to clinical trials before it is widely accepted.

"There is little or no documentation about his outcomes, only anecdotal data," said Dr. Nicholas T. Kouchofokos of the Washington University School of Medicine, treasurer of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons.

Surgeons are extremely interested in it, however, because there are so many patients who could benefit if it works. Every year, cardiologists diagnose about 400,000

cases of heart failure in the United States, where it is the leading cause of death.

About 70,000 of those victims have enlarged hearts and are potential candidates for heart transplants, which until now has been the only way to treat the problem. But only about 2,300 actually receive a new heart each year because there are so few donors.

Batista's surgery could serve as an alternative to transplants for most of those patients, experts say, or perhaps as a bridge to improve the patient's chances of survival until a new heart can be found.

The idea that an important new surgical technique could come from an unknown surgeon at the 200-bed Hospital Angelina Caron in tiny Campina Grande do Sul was unthinkable to most physicians.

A tall 49-year-old with broad shoulders and big hands, Batista was a swimming, basketball and water polo champion in high school and college.

He now competes in sprints in master's class swimming. His quest for an age-group world record in the 50-meter event has been temporarily derailed by his proselytization for the new surgical procedure.

Charming and profane, he is an engaging speaker who quickly won over his audience at the recent talk—despite the rejections he has received in the past.

Batista is a self-proclaimed heart junkie. "From the time I was a little boy, I've always dissected every heart I could get my hands on," he said in a recent interview.

It was natural then that he became a heart surgeon. He graduated from medical school in Curitiba, Brazil, and spent 12 years in the United States, Canada and Europe in surgical training before returning to Campina Grande do Sul, a suburban village about 15 miles outside Curitiba.

Batista's epiphany came one day when he saw a solitary water buffalo lying on its back in the forest. "That was unusual," he said, "because water buffaloes are never alone and they don't lie on their backs."

Approaching it, he noticed half of a coral snake sticking out from under the larger animal. "Obviously, it had bitten and killed the water buffalo, but had run the wrong way before the buffalo toppled on it."

Dissecting both hearts, he found that except for size, they were identical. "If you blow up a picture of the snake heart and place it beside one of the buffalo heart, you can't tell the difference," he said.

Further research indicated that this is true throughout the animal kingdom. No matter what size an animal is, the ratio of its heart's mass to its volume remains constant. That means a bigger heart requires much more muscle to pump blood effectively. If the radius of a heart doubles, eight times as much muscle is required to

pump blood effectively.

But when hearts get enlarged, whether it is from Chagas' disease, a parasitic disease common in South America, or congestive heart disease, they deviate from that universal constant. They get dramatically bigger but the amount of muscle doesn't increase proportionately.

As a result, it can't pump blood efficiently. Blood accumulates in the lungs, impairing breathing. It collects in the feet, leaving them oversized, black and cold. It doesn't pump through the kidney, so wastes aren't cleaned.

Most victims are confined to their beds, unable to participate in normal activities. Half dies within six months.

Because he treats many patients who have Chagas' disease, Batista desperately needed a way to get diseased hearts working more efficiently. Experimenting with goats, he found that he could remove a triangular wedge from the wall of the left ventricle to make it smaller and thereby increase the force with which it expelled blood.

"I'm not God; I can't give it

more muscle. But I can make smaller," Batista said.

The operation, which takes as little as an hour, is performed without stopping the heart. Blood that leaks out during the surgery is siphoned off, cleaned, and reinfused into the patient.

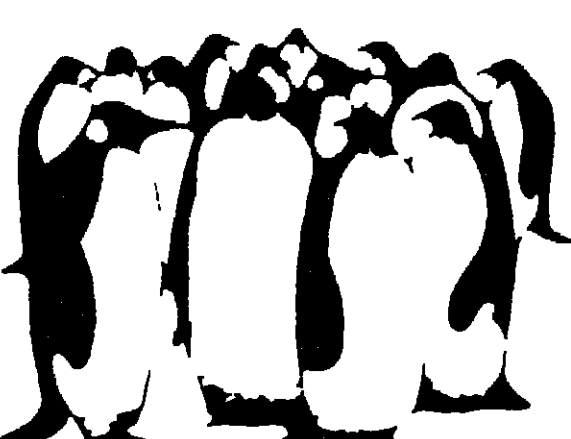
In a typical example of the procedure shown on video at the Los Angeles meeting last month, Batista removed nearly a pound of heart tissue, an equivalent of a normal heart from a heart that had grown to nearly 2.5 pounds in size. Sewn back together, the heart resumed pumping vigorously as the patient breathed easier and his feet rapidly became pink and healthy.

Most patients begin walking around in as little as two days after the surgery.

From 1984 to 1995, Batista operated on 304 patients ranging in age from 8 months to 76 years. There were 32 deaths in surgery or in the hospital during this period, and perhaps a many in the six months following the surgery. But Batista points out this is an extremely high-risk population that included mostly terminally ill patients. ■

The Star
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AROUND TOWN



Korea in town!

● The Korean Ambassador to Jordan, Mr Oh Jang Il with the South African Ambassador in Amman, Mr Henry Debruyin (left) at a reception following the opening of the Korean Products Show '96 at the Universal Expo Center.



'Birds of Night' illuminates the stage

By Munther Hamdan
Star Staff writer

Characters search in the dark stage for a gleam of light. They are striving to escape the bitter truth that is irreversibly inflicted on them. The play, titled "Birds of Night" was performed last week by the Tunisian Organic Theatre troupe at the Royal Cultural Centre as part of Jordan's Fourth Theatre Festival. The play is firmly in the theatrical tradition that uses symbolic realism to explain the hardship and complexities of life.

One of the main themes the play tackles is man's conflict between his desires and obligations. The story is of a conflict between a man whose first wife deserted him to marry a rich old man. The husband left taking with him his daughter. He later marries a blind singer in an attempt to forget his loneliness. The conflict begins when the first wife seeks to get back her daughter, having lied to the blind woman that the husband is impotent.

The first wife seeks to create a new life away from poverty and family obligations. After she fails to emancipate herself from the past, she realizes that she missed the true moments of her life without her daughter.



Birds of Night is open ended. No set conclusion is required because the conflict never stops. The dark setting with some lights distributed horizontally on stage are part of the theme of light vs darkness.

The telephone booth on stage is the only way of communication between the characters. As to the title of the play, we can say that the

characters are attempting to fly from the dark to lightness. But because of certain inner flaws, they found themselves locked in darkness. The music used added much to the gloomy atmosphere though some dances and songs were not related to the whole scene.

The play succeeds in drawing the attention to man's infatuation with lights. It differentiates between deceptive lights of fame and the real light, that is a symbol of faith and truth. What made the plot move, is that the truth, the characters sought, turned out to be painful. They discover or they did not want to confess that lack of love and understanding are major causes for their misery.

Organic Theatre, is a group that believes in experimental theater. The three actors are Leila Tabbal who plays Shubra (the first wife), Hinda Al Marwani playing Bazwanka (The blind singer) and Tawfik Al Ayeh playing Badah (the husband). The text is written and directed by Izz Ididin Qannoun. He is one of the renowned theatre teachers in Tunisia. He established the organic theatre and Al Hamra Theatre Space. His Birds of Night was performed in the Fourth Forum for the European Theatre Schools and Academies in Romania.

Opening Liwan Hotel



UNDER THE patronage of Prime Minister Abd Al Karim Kabarti, Al Liwan Hotel opened its doors last week. The hotel was inaugurated by the Minister of Tourism, Mr Saleh Irsheidat, who deputized for the prime minister. The Chairman of the Board of Directors of Al Liwan is Mr Waleed Al Najjar. Other senior officials, members of the diplomatic corp in Amman and members from the commercial and tourist sectors also attended the opening.

Al Liwan Hotel seeks to upgrade the quality of tourism in Jordan. The hotel was the fruit of cooperation between the Jordan Financial Investment Co., and Jordan Trade Facilities Co. who are now the owners of the Al Liwan for Hotels and Tourism Utilities. The hotel offers a wide range of services found in its restaurants, lobbies, meeting halls, terrace and highly equipped bedrooms.

Aurora, the most divine of all pens

LAST WEEK the Qweider Trading Est., held a press conference to display the Italian prestigious collection of Aurora pens, the Dante Alighieri fountain. The Assistant Director General of Aurora, Mr Cesare M. Verona introduced the Aurora collection in high quality pens.



Verona displays latest collection

Aurora have always been objects of invaluable quality, a perfect combination of antique craftsmanship and technical skill.

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Gold cap decorated with the portrait of the noble poet, clip with period engravings, rings with laurel leaves chiselled in vermeil, solid, 18 carat gold nib on ebonite feeder.

Details reserved to Aurora's special customers and collectors, true lovers of the art of writing.

Worthy of praise is the extremely refined green lacquering made layer after layer through several handcraft working phases.

Personality, elegance, refinement, together with a refined and faultless technique, in the spirit of the noblest tradition, have given life to charming details for those who know well the story of this field and for those who see a pen as an instrument full of charm.

The pen is offered in an elegant wooden case, together with a refined inkpot and a pleasant to read, which bears its number and thus is its official identity statement.

Cartoonist Jalal Al Rifai

Drawing life the simple way

Cartoons express limitless meanings. Cartoonists can say in one picture more than what writers can say in a thousand words. Some cartoonists became as popular as great authors and politicians.

Jalal Al Rifai, a Jordanian cartoonist for Ad Dustour

daily newspaper, is one of the many Arab cartoonists who contributed much time and effort to this art. Last week, he won the Hisham and Ali Hafez Arab Prize for Cartoonists. Rifai places himself among the old generation of cartoonists who adopt the simple way in

drawing, even when they want to depict complex issues. Al Rifai, whose cartoons appear almost everyday in Ad Dustour, concentrates on people's daily concerns and problems avoiding complexity and symbols. He told The Star that ideas are available to everybody but the important thing is the way the

cartoonist can convert them into pictures. He added that some ideas are ostensibly simple but deep down, they carry unexpected meanings.

Rifai said that some believe that using words in a cartoon does not have the intended effect. "With or without words is not the question. The important thing is how to translate effective ideas into lines and pictures," he added.

Arab cartoonists do not enjoy a wide scope of freedom which foreign cartoonists have. Rifai elaborated that Arab cartoonists are afraid to criticize heads of states in their drawings. He added that other factors which hamper the development of the Arab cartoon is that people do not accept constructive criticisms.

Asked if daily drawing could weaken one's style, Rifai said once cartoonists get the required experience, drawing on daily basis becomes a habit. "But one can not always produce the same quality," he said.

MH

Pizza Hut introduces the new Stuffed Crust Pizza

PIZZA HUT is a famous chain restaurant which has 160 restaurants around the world. It has just introduced the new Stuffed Crust Pizza.

The new pizza is rich in Mozzarella cheese which is stuffed on the sides. The size of the new dish is neither thick nor thin and is covered with mouthwatering sauce and natural herbs.

In the last two years, the Stuffed Crust Pizza has undergone extensive tests to bring it to the required standard and taste. The pizza is now in town after successful advertising campaign in the US, UK and Spain.



Arabesque Ceramics

Recreating the art of a bygone era

By Harry Pullens
Special to The Star

In the five-day Arabesque ceramics exhibition which ends today at the Royal Cultural Center (RCC), a once vibrant ancient tradition that has come under siege with the passing of time is being revived in the works of an Iraqi ceramist, Waleed Rashid.

This artist stated that while looking into the hazy future, we should not forget the glorious past which is necessary for building the future.

In keeping with this belief, Rashid and Raed Badri, the director of the Arabesque Ceramics in Amman, and an expert in tourism promotion, joined hands in a bid to capture and recreate the past.

Badri who pointed out that Arabs constantly allude to their ancient artistry, believes that ancient art forms which include pottery, ceramics and mosaics should be preserved.

"There is the need to preserve this tradition and invoke the memories of those times by using them for decorations," he said.

Rashid, described by his director as the

brain behind these highly impressive works, believes it is only the artist that has the genuine desire to build an indelible legacy that lasts beyond time.

Since this ambitious enterprise started two years ago, the center has become a training place for young artists and students.

Badri who told The Star that they began preparing for this exhibit eight months ago, said their most significant exhibition was at last year's Jerash Festival. He is looking forward to participating in this year's forthcoming Jerash festival to promote art as a whole in the country and "show guests who are coming from different countries, Jordan's rich and diverse artistic tradition."

The symbols, motifs, techniques, used in all the over 400 pieces, are influenced by the Nabateans, Arameans and Canaanites. "We combine these old civilizations with modern designs and styles," he said. "Our aim is to achieve harmony between the old and the new, for this we sometimes use glazes and designs to capture old memories."

These inscrutable, endless symbols and designs employed in their work are often names and letters used by Arabs who once lived in this region. "Our work is imitation but with certain modifications," Badri said.

"But we always use glazes with matted colors to avoid bright designs which may not be uniform with the old. Our colors are natural ones and even those with bright or modern colors, there are always old letters, symbols and designs reminiscent of the past," he said.

The numerous ceramics are in different forms and sizes which include vases, jugs, bowls, pots, ancient oil lamps, bedlamps, cups, plates, sculpture and exotic objects.

These products are also reflective of society's quest for progress in improving applied arts—the shapes and diverse forms are deeply expressive of the artist's imaginative power. Apart from their significant technique, their artistic appeal lies in the graceful shapes and original designs.

The designs fall into several categories. Some have striking internal decorations. The motifs are not only varied, but they are also complicated and simple. In some, the harmony of the paint and blank areas together with the density and sparsity underscores the force of the decorations.

Rashid, who explained that the artistic experience of recalling the past in his work is exciting, believes, Arabesque resembles a boat sailing in the world of letters, symbols,

decorations, forms, colors, knowledge, symmetry and composition.

The shape and the form of his work are like another language. "I'm trying to build the shape of those relics in my own way, and create harmony between colors," he said. Explaining that his desire is to give more and more, he regretted his inability to reach for the ultimate quest in perfection.

Responding to the question of how he got into the business, Badri explained that as an expert in tourism promotion he knew what was needed. "There is a big market for these products, it is only those that haven't seen them that don't like them," he said. "There is a need for greater awareness and of their promotion by the government and individuals, he pointed out.

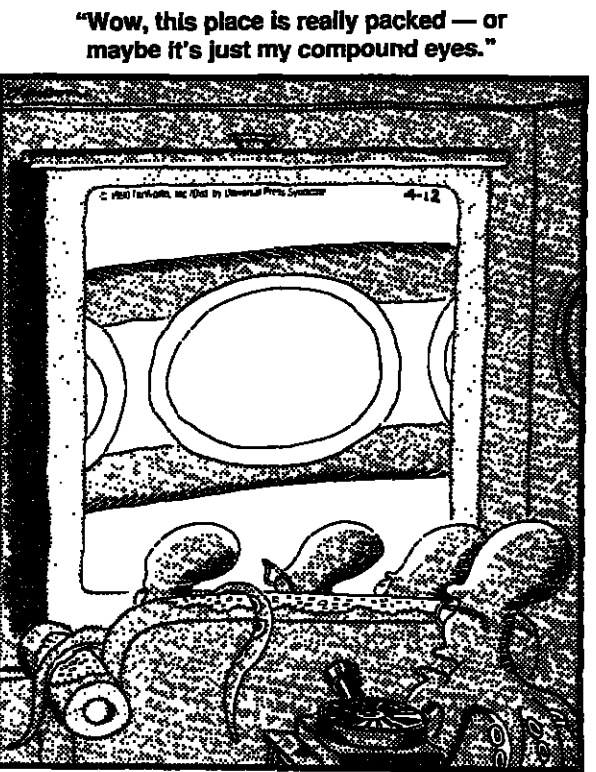
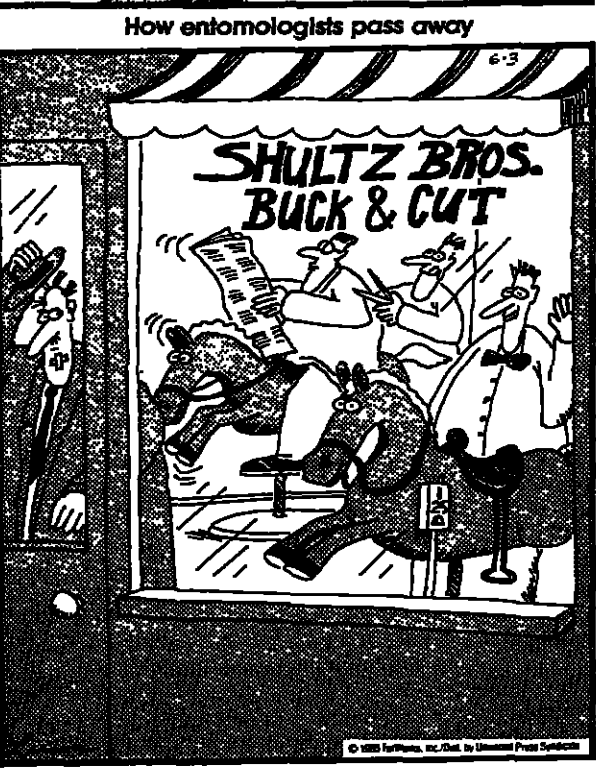
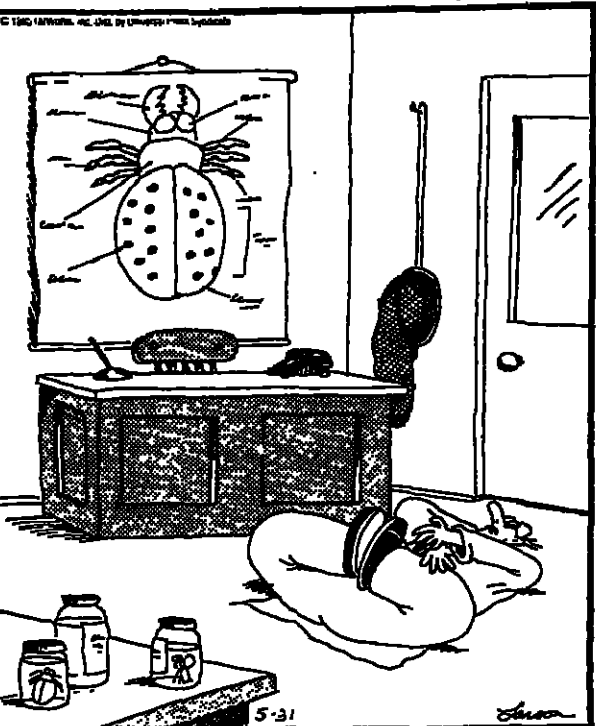
"Ceramics and pottery works can be used in hotels and tourist sites for both indoor and outdoor decorations," he explained.

He said that pottery could last for thousand years. Badri explained that they are flexible enough for any form, shape and size. Comparing their products with the commercialized Chinese ceramics which are widely used in the country, Badri said theirs are handmade and people like handmade ones.

"Each one of our products is priceless, there are no seconds, it is this distinction that gives them a sense of originality, which is not found in commercial ones, he said.

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



AGENDA

Exhibitions

■ An exhibition titled *Heureux Dimanche*, at The French Cultural Center, continues till 20 July.

■ Ceramics exhibition, at Jordan Design and Trade Center, continues till 25 July.

■ An exhibition by Sudanese artist Rachid Diab, entitled *The Time of Silence*, at Darat Al Funun, continues till 31 July.

■ An exhibition, entitled *Muslims in Britain*, at the British Council from 15 till 24 July.

■ Ceramics and Painting exhibition, by Fayez Al Shrouf at the Royal Cultural Center, ends today.

■ An abstract art exhibition by Arab women artists at Baladna Art Gallery ends today.

■ *Breaking Free of the Earth*, at Darat Al Funun, starts today at 6:00 pm.

■ *La Nuit De Varennes*, at the French Cultural Center, starts 15 July at 8:00 pm.

■ *Strangers on a Train*, at the American Cultural Center, starts today at 5:00 pm.

The Star's TV GUIDE

Programs on JTV
from 13-19 July

ENGLISH PROGRAMS

SATURDAY

3:00—Nomin
3:30—Pumpkin Patch
3:40—Big Brother Jake
4:10—Olympics
5:00—News Flash
5:01—French programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Torkelsons
8:00—The Album Show
8:50—Miami Vice
9:30—Prism
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—The Bold and the Beautiful
11:10—Feature Film: *Foul Play*, starring, Cheryl Chase and Dudley Moore.
The film is about a cardinal who is being assassinated by an unknown person.

SUNDAY

3:00—The Mask
3:30—Bush School
3:40—Mac and Nutley
4:10—Olympics
5:00—News Flash
5:01—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Cinema, Cinema, Cinema
8:00—The American Chart Show
8:45—Fresh Prince of Bel-Air
9:10—Black's Magic
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Guitar Legends (Music and Song)
11:15—Short story Cinema
11:45—Nelson's column

MONDAY

3:00—Bonkers
3:30—Richie Rich
3:45—Play About
4:10—Olympics

5:00—News Flash

5:01—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Milner Fenwick
8:00—Paul McKenna Show
8:30—Matlock
9:10—100 Years of Capitalism in Korea
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—The Bold and the Beautiful
11:15—Mancuso FBI

TUESDAY

3:00—Iris, the Happy Professor
3:15—Captain Planet
3:30—Hot shots
4:00—Olympics
5:00—News Flash
5:01—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Blossom
8:00—Documentary
8:30—Encounter
9:10—Star Trek
10:00—News at Ten
10:30—Human Target
11:15—Hawai 5-0
11:45—My Two Wives

WEDNESDAY

3:00—Flint Stones
3:30—Iris
3:45—Bill Nye the Science Guy
4:10—Olympics
5:00—News Flash
5:01—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Evening Shade
8:00—Super Stars of Action
8:30—Chancer
9:10—Hunter
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—The Bold and the Beautiful
11:15—Bugs

THURSDAY

3:00—Double Dragon



Cinema, Cinema, Cinema, Sunday at 7:35 pm

3:30—Pirates
4:10—Olympics
5:00—News Flash
5:01—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Here's Lucy
8:00—Tarata
9:10—Star Trek
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Feature Film: *Duel of Hearts*, starring, Alison Dooey and Richard Johnson.

FRIDAY

3:00—Dumb and Dumber
3:30—Bush School
3:40—Gillette World Sport
4:10—Olympics
5:00—News Flash
5:01—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Growing Pains
8:00—Nasty Boys

PROGRAMMES EN FRANÇAIS

SAMEDI

5:00—Dessins animés
5:15—Emission jeunesse
La vie devant moi
5:30—Jeux
Pyramide
6:00—Série
Château Vallon
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Faut pas rêver
L'Inde

DIMANCHE

5:00—Dessins animés
5:15—Emission jeunesse
La vie devant moi
5:30—Jeux
Pyramide
6:00—Magazine
Envoyé spécial
«La septième merveille du monde»
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Magazine
Sports et musique

Programs are subject to change by JTV

PERKY & BEANZ by Russell Myers



ELWOOD by Ben Templeton & Tom Forman



CATFISH by Fred Wagner & Tom Cone



Jumble

Unscramble these four words, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ENFIG
COTTE
RIMBLE
SPOMIE

Answer: "FOUR" "FOUR" "FOUR" "FOUR"



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: "FOUR" "FOUR" "FOUR" "FOUR"

Words of Wisdom

It's bad enough to have to deal with the troubles we have without anticipating the troubles that might be.

Originality is simply a way of looking at things with a fresh perspective.

The best manner is an easy one.

The pleasure of living a quiet life, without moments of great drama, tragedy or comedy, is greatly underestimated.

If you have the opportunity to teach and do not, you have wasted a valuable gift.

Withholding truth can do more harm than telling an outright lie.

—THIS WEEK'S—
HOROSCOPE

By Linda Black

Weekly Tip: Delegate responsibilities. Cost-saving innovations take center stage.

Aries (March 21-April 19). You'll have to think and act quickly. Show you can obey an order instantly.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Something you're learning comes in handy. Pedantic people will be practically impossible. Save all tedious chores for later.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). Pay bills on the first, big time. If there's any money left you could shop for computer gadgets.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). An old friend can help you out of a jam, if you'll say you're sorry. Private negotiations go better. Don't believe everything you hear.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Work hard so you can spend more time with your favorite partner. You don't agree on everything, but you sure learn a lot from each other.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Reaffirm your bond with a close friend. Concentrate on a tough technical problem. A friend's crazy idea could be lots of fun.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). A friend's tantrum pushes you to take action. Plans made will amount to nothing, so stay flexible. Remember to be nice to an older person too.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Domestic squabbles mess up your peace of mind. Don't worry, they'll amount to nothing.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Save your private rendezvous for the weekend. You and your sweetheart will be in the mood for a game of one-on-one.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're strong, which is good. The competition's fierce. Investigate a pending purchase carefully — then wait to buy.

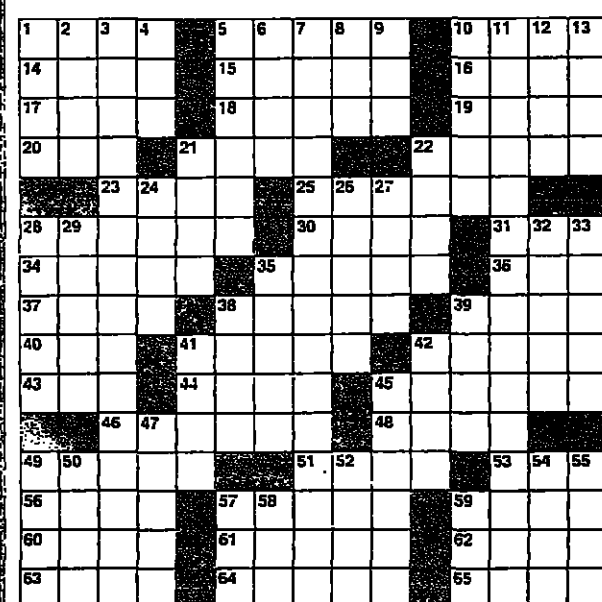
Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're under pressure from an older person. Don't argue, just do the work. You'll have more time for your own agenda soon.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). An old friend's advice can save you a lot of trouble. Don't worry, your fears will come to naught. Watch out for a tendency to overspend, even for a good reason.

If You're Having a Birthday This Week: A partner plays a prominent role in your life this year. Love could be the end result.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS
1 Footish
5 Wise guys
10 Venerable
14 Press
15 Unaccompanied
17 Knowledge
18 Was
19 Unreliable
20 Favored
21 Tolstoi
22 heroine
23 Newspaper notices
24 Sani
25 Oriental bigwig
26 Scantly
27 Hard fat
28 City in Pakistan
30 Literary products
31 Believer
32 Made a good
33 Patriot of '76
34 Article
37 Hebrew prophet
38 Pennies
39 Word of compassion
40 French coin
41 Cmoizes severely
42 Paris
43 subway
44 Work unit
45 Nobelman
46 Legitimate
47 Marriage
48 Kind of room
49 Gies heavily
51 Zola novel
53 Tight roll
56 Seed
57 covering
58 Leeson's
59 Venus de
60 Network of nerves
61 Extreme
62 Aware of
63 Pallid
64 Author
65 Brendan
66 Fragrance
67 part
68 Legal paper
69 Yuma's river
70 Like a desert
71 Complete
72 Conjunction
73 Ancient
74 Italian
75 Actress
76 Nazimova
77 Dues
78 everything possible
79 Navy man: abbr.
80 Cliche
81 Where
82 Bowie felt
83 Completely vanished
84 Sea eagle
85 Expensive
86 E.g.
87 Different
88 Does garden work
89 Narrow way
90 Theda
91 God of war
92 Emanation
93 Choir singer
94 Portal
95 Bathing milieu
96 Pub drink
97 Pasture sound

IF IFS AND ANDS
WERE POTS AND
PANS,
THERE'D BE NO
WORK FOR THE
TINKERS

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Cinema

"BROKEN ARROW" (Fox, \$105.51): John Travolta plays a villain for a change in Hong Kong director John Woo's ("Hard Target") action-crammed tale, about an Air Force pilot who steals a Stealth plane to sell off the nuclear weapons it holds. Christian Slater also stars as a fellow aviator betrayed by the bad guy, and determined to dismantle the scheme with assistance from a park ranger (Samantha Mathis). *** (R: AS, P, V)

"WILL SUCCESS SPOIL ROCK HUNTER?" (Fox, \$19.98): Appearing on video for the first time, veteran writer-director Frank Tashlin's classic 1957 comedy features Jayne Mansfield in a role that wasn't a stretch for her ... a popular bombshell, who's pursued by an advertising executive (Tony Randall) eager to use her in a campaign for a brand of lipstick. Mansfield's husband Mickey Hargitay co-stars. *** (Not rated: AS)

HELD OVER: "HEAT" (Warner, \$103.91): Though both appeared in "The Godfather, Part II," Al Pacino and Robert De Niro didn't share any scenes ... but that's rectified by "Miami Vice" mentor Michael Mann's lengthy but pulsating crime drama. Pacino plays a veteran police detective determined not to let master thief De Niro get away with elaborate heist plans: Val Kilmer, Ashley Judd and Jon Voight also are featured. *** (R: AS, P, V)

"MIGHTY APHRODITE" (Miramax, \$100.72): Actresses have had great success in the Oscar race by working with Woody Allen, as proven by Diane Keaton and Dianne Wiest ... and Mira Sorvino joined that group with her Academy Award win for writer, director and co-star Allen's latest comedy. She plays a prostitute sought out by her son's adoptive father (Allen); Helena Bonham Carter and Jack Warden also appear. *** (R: AS, P)

"TWO IF BY SEA" (Warner, \$100.71): Sandra Bullock has proven her ability to "open" a movie at the box office, and that benefited her co-star Denis Leary — who also wrote the story — in the case of this comedy. They play a feuding couple who manage to stay together, but his thieving ways frequently reignite the discord between them: Yaphet Kotto and Mike Starr ("The Bodyguard") also appear. ** (R: AS, P, V)

COMING SOON: "THE JUROR" (Columbia/TriStar, July 9): Demi Moore plays a member of a jury who finds herself threatened by a representative (Alec Baldwin) of the defendant. (R)

"NIXON" (Hollywood, July 9): Anthony Hopkins has the title role in director Oliver Stone's biography, which includes extra footage; Joan Allen portrays Pat Nixon. (R)

"EYE FOR AN EYE" (Paramount, July 16): Sally Field plays a woman seeking vengeance against the felon (Kiefer Sutherland) who assaulted and killed her daughter. (R)

FAMILY VIEWING GUIDE KEY: AS, adult situations; N, nudity; P, profanity; V, violence; GV, particularly graphic violence.

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Bridge

Two-Way Brilliance
By Tannah Hirsch

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ K 10 6
♥ A K J 4
♦ A 10 9 5
♣ K 7

EAST

♠ 8 5 4
♥ Q 9 8 6 3
♦ K 7 2
♣ Q 2

SOUTH

♠ A Q 3
♥ 10 7 5 2
♦ Q 6 4
♣ J 5 4

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♠

On this deal from a match between France and the Netherlands, there was an opportunity to star on both offense and defense. In each case it was the French team that seized the moment.

In one room the bidding went as shown. North's jump to three no trump by agreement showed a heart raise and a balanced hand, and South, Paul Chemla, one of our favorite partners, chose to correct to four hearts.

West led a low spade, taken in dummy, and the ace of hearts revealed the 5-0 split. Declarer cashed the remaining spades, then led a diamond to the ten. In with the king, East could do no better than return the suit. Declarer won in hand and led a low club. West ducked and the table's king won.

After cashing the ace of diamonds, to which both defenders followed, declarer continued with the high diamond, ruffed by East with the eight and overruffed by declarer. On the return of the jack of clubs, West rose with the ace to take East off the looming endplay, but that merely postponed the inevitable. Down to nothing but trumps, East had to ruff the club continuation and then hand declarer the contract by leading a trump away from the queen into the board's K J tenace.

At the other table the Dutch declared three no trump from the South position, and West led the ten of clubs. Dummy played low and so did Michel Lebel, East! Declarer could have made the contract by also following low, but no sane person would. When the heart finesse failed, West was able to overtake the queen of clubs and run the suit for a two-trick set.

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SLAPSTIX

Hope is a good
breakfast, but it is a
bad supper!

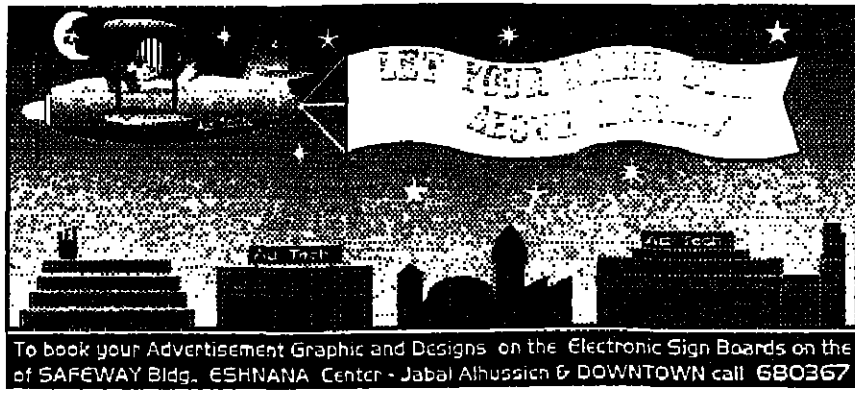
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Activities

Royal Cultural Centre	6610267	Concord Cinema	677420
American Centre Library	820101	Plaza Cinema	609238
British Council	6361478	Philadelphia Cinema	634144
French Cultural Centre	637009		
Goethe Institute	641993		
Cervantes Institute (Spanish)	610858		
Turkish Cultural Centre	639777		
Haya Arts Centre	665195		
Y.W.C.A.	641793		
Dar al Funun	643252		
Alia Art Gallery	639303		
Baladna Art Gallery	657132		
Nabil Al Mashini Theatre	675571		
Nabil & Hisham's Theatre	625155		

Sports Clubs

Al Hussein Sports City	667181/5
Orthodox Club	810491
Royal Automobile Club	815410
Royal Shooting Club	736572
Royal Chess Club	673713
Royal Racing Club	09-801233
Jordan Bridge Club	676990
Amman Mun. Library	636111
Univ. of Jordan Library	843555
R.S.C.N.	837931/837937



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Amman Greater Municipality	636111	Municipalities & Environment	641393
Agriculture	686151	Parliamentary Affairs	641211
Awqaf & Islamic Affairs	666141	Planning	644466
Culture / Jabal Amman	636391	Post & Communications	624301
Education & Higher Education	669181	Public Health	665131
Energy & Mineral Resources	815615	Public Works & Housing	668481
Finance	636321	Social Development	673191
Foreign Affairs	643361	Supplies	602121
Industry & Trade	663191	Tourism & Antiquities	642311
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Interior Ministry	663111	Water & Irrigation	680100
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UNESCO	606559

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Aljazeera (Air Yemen)	653691
American Airlines	669068
Arab Wings	894484
Austrian Airlines	693845/694604
Balkan Airlines	665909
British Midland	694802
British Airways	828801
Cathay Pacific	628596
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Cyprus Airways	667028
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Emirates Airlines	643341
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Philippine Airlines	640200
PIA	625981
Polish Airlines	625981
Qantas	862288
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Saudia	639333
Scandinavian Airlines	604499
Singapore Airlines	676177
Sudan Airlines	694501
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TAROM - Romanian	637380
Thai Airways	637195
Trans World Airline	623430
Turkish Airlines	659102
Yemenia Airways	628175
Queen Alia Airport	(08) 53200
RJ Flight Info	(08) 53200

Important Numbers

Emergencies

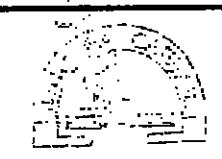
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Khaled Maternity	644281/6
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Palestine, Shmeisani	664171/4
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THE STAR'S

COMPUTING & HIGH TECH

Edited by Zeid Nasser

Scientific & Medical Supplies Co. (SMS) organizes a launch event for a new line of products:

Color in the office, from Hewlett-Packard

SCIENTIFIC & Medical Supplies Co. (SMS) is organizing a major event for Hewlett-Packard in Amman next week, on Sunday 14 July 1996.

The event, to be held at the Amman Marriott Hotel, will witness the announcement of Hewlett-Packard's latest corporate strategy towards "Color in the Office," through the introduction of the latest products from the company, taking the office environment into this new stage.

The announcement, along with a complete presentation and seminar is to be made by a number of officials from Hewlett-Packard's headquarters in Switzerland, including Mr. Roland Mattise, Area Business Manager in the Middle East & North Africa.

At the time of this announcement will be the latest "all-in-one color solution" from Hewlett-Packard, the CopyJet.

This will represent the first launch for the CopyJet outside Europe, making it an event of regional importance.

The Hewlett-Packard CopyJet brings the best of the worlds of printing and photocopying together, in a moderately sized unit which delivers the high level of performance to be expected from Hewlett-Packard, at a competitive price.

It is a plain paper, drop-on-demand thermal inkjet printer and copier.

With full featured copying, it allows the user to enlarge or reduce images from 50 percent

Token Ring or Local Talk connectivity. That is, of course, in addition to memory expansion kits, cables and cartridges.

The Hewlett-Packard CopyJet introduces considerable savings to the working environment, as it cuts down on the operational costs of color photocopying and printing.

The CopyJet comes in two versions, one for the IBM PC and one for the Apple Macintosh, which offers Postscript printing as standard.

Scientific & Medical Supplies Co. (SMS) has provided the Jordanian market with comprehensive medical and technical solutions from Hewlett-Packard since the early nineteen seventies.

Starting in the middle of the nineteen eighties, SMS began to market the complete range of Hewlett-Packard computer products including PCs, printers, scanners and general peripherals and accessories.

For more information on Hewlett-Packard products in Jordan, contact Scientific & Medical Supplies Co. (SMS) at telephone 624907.



HP CopyJet introduces full feature copying and networkable printing, in an all-in-one design

"Dad, how come you never saved Grand Pa's email?" Email's effect on a legacy of letters

By Jawad Abbassi
Special to The Star

WHEN PEOPLE visit museums established to commemorate the lives of great men and women—be they writers, artists or politicians—they usually have the chance to view personal letters or notes sent by these celebrities.

This intriguing experience provides an important perspective on the celebrities' personal and social life, as well as their hand writing and personal feelings. With this in mind, one question arises: would our descendants be able to read our notes and letters 70 years or so from now?

Take me as an example, not that I am a celebrity or anything. I always have great fun reading the old letters of my parents—at least the ones they allow me to read—or the letters sent to my father by my grand father when he was in college. Yet, when it comes to my grand children—who are at least half a century away from coming into existence—I am afraid they won't be able to read the messages I plan to send to my son or daughter during his or her travel for study or work. This is not because I won't be sending my sons and daughters letters, but because my communication

with them would most probably be through email.

Whereas letters could be just set aside in some big trunk or drawer, email is never out of your computer's hard disk; unless you decide to print it out, which is virtually never done with personal email.

Furthermore, email systems work in a manner that deletes email as it ages (age in the Internet is counted by days), so unless you specifically save your email message onto your hard disk, the system just deletes it when it reaches the old age of 90 days or another pre-configured number of days.

So, if we were to leave our descendants a legacy of personal letters, we would have to get out of our way and start backing up our email messages onto extra drives or tape backups, and we would have to start storing those in that old big trunk.

I don't think this will be happening anytime soon, but with the rapid replacement of hand written letters with email messages, it could be safe to say that our descendants may never take a look at a letter written by us. Of course, they will have loads of video tapes to see us in action, but a letter may not be there anymore.

Email's functionality perhaps

outweighs this potential loss of this supposedly important legacy of letters.

Nowadays, we receive chain messages over email that promise you luck and good fortune, if you forwarded them to ten different people while promising you to eternal damnation if you didn't.

I always send the ten messages for fear of the consequences of not doing so!

All you have to do is to forward this message to ten different email addresses and that's it: no more ten envelopes to buy and ten pages to type. So, a lot of paper has been saved and, because of the ease with which the conditions are fulfilled, less people are being doomed.

As it appears, email is here to stay; a convenient and cost effective solution. Nevertheless, email will have a profound impact, for good or for bad, on the many written letters usually handed down from one generation to another.

Unless, of course, we decide to leave tape backups and Hard Disks around with our email messages on them. Will my grand child ever ask his father the question ending this article? I guess I will never know.

email: Jawad Abbassi@NETS.com.jo

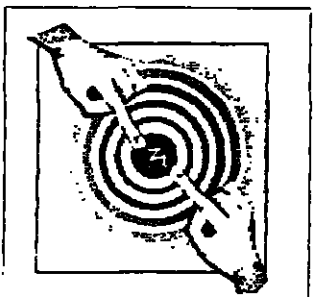
Email-to-fax with Faxaway, from Global One/Sprint Jordan: Finally, cut those faxing costs

GLOBAL ONE/Sprint Jordan has recently announced an impressive email-to-fax service, that should make it very appealing for Jordanian businesses to adopt the Internet as the new medium for complete corporate communications.

By utilizing the Faxaway service on the Internet, users can now communicate with fax machines anywhere in the world, through their modems.

"All that users have to do is send their messages as email, to faxaway.com on the Internet," said Mr. Imad Ayoub, general manager of Global One/Sprint Jordan. By allowing the user to include graphic images or logos in the email message sent, the Faxaway service manages to solve one of the main problems that stood as a barrier to the growth of email-to-fax communications. Now, companies can rest assured that their messages will appear complete on the fax machine of the receiver, just as if they were printed on headed paper that includes the company's logo.

It is an appealing prospect because, according to sources at Global One /Sprint Jordan, the email-to-fax service will allow



savings of up to 90 percent on a regular fax bill. "This service takes us one more step in the direction of email services completely replacing faxing. It has to happen one day, no doubt about it," concluded Mr. Ayoub.

Global One/Sprint Jordan is willing to provide demonstrations to local businesses on how useful the faxaway service is, as

part of the complete Internet On-Line service offered, and how it introduces real savings.

The announcement of the Faxaway service coincides with a special offer being currently provided by Global One/Sprint Jordan, by which customers can receive 4 Hours of connectivity every month for just JD19. The only stipulation is that customers take up this offer on an annual basis.

Still, by bringing down the charge per hour, coupled with the savings to be made with the Faxaway service, Global One/Sprint Jordan is introducing attractive cost-effective plans that Jordanian businesses will be much more willing to adopt, to enter the global information age.

In addition to obtaining the Internet service direct from Global One/Sprint Jordan, users can also obtain it from re-sellers such as NETS, Access, CyberNET and several local computer companies. For more information, contact Global One/Sprint Jordan at telephone 700301.

INTERFACE

BY ZEID NASSER

IPR enforcement in Jordan (2): Evaluating the impact

AS WE have previously discussed, the Jordanian Government is to finalize its membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO), by ratifying the General Agreement on Tariffs & Trade (GATT). These steps involve the proper enforcement of intellectual property rights (IPR) laws in the country, which means a crackdown on illegal software copying, also referred to as piracy.

Here are some facts on this matter as stated by the President of the Jordan Computer Society (JCS) on the progress in this direction: The Government has formed a group of representatives from the public and private sectors to evaluate the 28 agreements involved in joining the WTO, and their impact on Jordan. One of these agreements, is the agreement on Intellectual Property.

The Jordan Computer Society (JCS), which represents the information technology sector in the country, is a member of the intellectual property rights committee. Over the past few months, the JCS has stimulated much discussion and debate on the subject, to include varied opinions, so as to submit its report on the matter to Jordan's negotiating team. Still, it is clear how software developers and distributors in Jordan feel about the enforcement of such laws. Let's start with distributors of foreign software.

As an example, take Netscape Navigator, the World Wide Web browser software for Internet users. The Jordanian distributor for Netscape, Business Optimization Consultants (BOC), is presenting a very valid argument regarding the use of its software, which is currently growing at a very large scale, as more Jordanian users gain Internet access. Users are allowed to download Netscape Navigator off the Netscape site on the Web, but are only allowed to use this copy for 60 days, which is treated as an "evaluation period". After that, users are required to replace the evaluation copy with a purchased license for the software. BOC have clearly stated, on more than one occasion, that any illegal copying will be fought hard, and that users will have to either pay for their copies or face litigation.

Specialized Technical Services (STS), the distributors for Microsoft products in Jordan, realizes the magnitude of the problem they will face. Every Intel-based PC sold in Jordan comes with illegal copies of Microsoft software installed on the hard disk.

Computer dealers view this as an added value offered to buyers. This is actually against the law and it is required that every person buying a PC should pay for the license to use MS-DOS and Windows, in addition to other software like Word and Excel. Just imagine the size of the crackdown required by the authorities to eliminate every single illegal copy of any of the above mentioned Microsoft products in the country. It would be a move that would, literally, affect every user in the country.

From the looks of it, Jordanian distributors for foreign software are willing to take up the battle against offenders in the country.

Some people raise the argument that huge publishers like Microsoft do not protect their software because they want it to spread, maintaining their software as a standard, with a massive user base formed as a result of non-protection. Then, they will achieve gains by charging for product upgrades and so on when IPR laws go into effect.

Moving away from particular cases and opinions, the topic of piracy should be discussed openly, like any other aspect of our daily lives as computer users. We would like to clearly state that the presentation of some views that may seem lenient towards piracy, does not resemble our opinion at *The Star*. Several readers, who have interests in the software business and who believe in the importance of IPR enforcement in Jordan, have already expressed to us their discomfort with the method we are stating what they call "the pirates' opinion". Once again, I would like to affirm my personal belief in maintaining the rights of authors and inventors in the software business. But this column represents a melting pot for different views. In any case, the issue of IPR laws is much too wide to be completely discussed in just one or two weeks, within the limits of this column. In the coming weeks, we will present steps and solutions, as recommended by some specialists, on how Jordanian businesses can best adapt to the next stage of IPR enforcement in the country.

US Olympic officials have lower expectations this time

By Christine Brennan
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

LAST WINTER, US Swimming officials gazed into their crystal ball and saw something frightening. They examined the best performances in the world in each event over the past two years, then estimated the number of medals Americans would win at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta.

The results were stunning, even embarrassing, for a sport that has been an unstoppable medal machine for decades in the United States: four gold medals for the men; none for the women.

What swimming officials did next was every bit as surprising. Rather than hide or downplay their projections, they gladly faxed their findings to any reporter who wanted to see them.

"That's what we're trying to do, lower expectations," US Olympic Committee President LeRoy Walker said recently. "It's a very competitive world now. It's not the same as the 1984 Olympic Games."

The last time the Olympics came to America, 12 years ago in Los Angeles, the United States couldn't help but win medals. Over and over again, American athletes draped in red, white and blue and squinting into the Southern California sun stood atop the medal platform and reveled in victory.

The United States won 83 gold medals at those boycotted Olympics, more than any nation has won in one Olympic Games. And so dominant was the US swimming team that it alone accounted for 21 gold medals.

In 12 years, is it possible US Swimming will drop from 21 gold medals to four? That's just a projection, but it's most definitely a sign that what happened in 1984 will not happen again in Atlanta, not in swimming or most of the other sports the United States controlled in the Los Angeles Games.

If the 1984 Olympics are remembered as an all-American birthday party, as some called it then, the 1996

Olympics are likely to be an all-American reality check.

"I think we need to be honest with people," said USOC Executive Director Dick Schultz. The 1984 Olympics wasn't really a full Olympics, because several of the strongest teams were not there, especially in sports like swimming and gymnastics. We were missing some of the nations that give us the best competition. We won a bunch of medals because we weren't facing some of the best athletes in those Games. ... The competition will be much tougher this time.

"On paper, it's unrealistic for anyone to expect us to go out and win the way we did in the glory days," said Dennis Purley, US Swimming's national team director, referring to times such as the 1976 Games in Montreal, when US men won the gold medal in 12 of 13 events.

"Whether we have a successful Games depends on your definition of success. It's very unrealistic for us to have an Olympics like we used to. But relative to other nations, we will do as well as anyone."

Coaches, athletes and officials routinely call the 1996 US Olympic team the "strongest" in the nation's history—not in swimming, perhaps, but overall, including women's gymnastics, men's sprints in track and field and even new sports such as softball, women's soccer and beach volleyball.

By the time 4 Aug rolls around and the Games are ending, it's likely the United States will have won more medals than any other nation, followed by Russia—now one of 15 nations that used to form the Soviet Union.

The world has caught up to the United States for a variety of reasons. Some nations made major pushes in certain sports, the Australians redefining themselves in swimming in the 1980s, for instance, and reaping the rewards in the '90s.

In the United States, meanwhile, professional sports such as basketball and football tend to attract top young athletes, luring them away from sports such as swimming and track and field. US colleges and universities often give scholarships to foreign athletes who then compete against Americans in the Olympics.

Then there was the boycott of the 1984 Games, taking away the Soviets, East Germans and Cubans, among others. Without them, Americans couldn't help but win. With them—with, actually, a full field of 197 nations participating this year—medals become more difficult to win.

"We will not see too many more of the (Matt) Biondis and (Mark) Spitzes and those kinds of performances in the Summer Games," Schultz said. "The competition is so high that an athlete who wins three or four gold medals is almost a thing of the past."

Heading into the

Games, Tom Dolan of Arlington, Va., is the United States' brightest swimming hope. To prove Schultz's point, Dolan is not projected by US Swimming to win two or three gold medals. Officials are hoping for just one, with chances for two more.

In the 400-meter individual medley, Dolan is the world-record holder. In the 200 IM, Finland's Jani Sievinen holds the world mark. Dolan has the best time in the world this year in both events (and in his third event as well, the 400 freestyle), which is significant—a point.

Sievinen has been lying low and only recently popped up on the world-best charts with a time more than 1 second slower than Dolan's best this year in the 200 IM.

Sometimes, US spectators get a distorted view of American prospects because of the amount of media coverage devoted to an athlete or a race.

At the recent US track and field trials, Mary Slaney rated headlines in most newspapers and highlights on the late-night news when she qualified for another Olympic team at age 37. But Slaney's time in the 5,000 meters was nearly 40 seconds slower than the best time in the world this year.

She and the other two Americans will have to run faster—or hope the Atlanta heat gets to their competitors—to make the final of their event, much less win a medal.

Even in gymnastics, memories of Mary Lou Retton's dramatic gold medal in the boycotted 1984 Games are replaced by the realities of the fiercely competitive international scene.

Asked if the US women's team could win the gold medal, Bela Karolyi, who coached Retton, demurred, saying it would be "very unfair ... to mention the color of the medal."

He knows that a bronze medal in 1996 would be as cherished as a gold in 1984.

Krajicek tops Washington for first Wimbledon title

By Jennifer Frey
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

WIMBLEDON, England—There were those who came to Richard Krajicek two, three, even four years ago and told him he should be able to win a Wimbledon title. He had the big serve, he had the right game, and, simply enough, he had the talent. He just never showed it. As his girlfriend, Daphne Deckers, explained quite succinctly, Krajicek was living "in a cocoon."

Sunday on Centre Court, Krajicek emerged a Wimbledon champion, his decisive 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 triumph over American MaliVai Washington showcasing his long-hidden skills in this sport's greatest theater. In a match that pitted two unseeded players for the first time in Wimbledon finals history, Krajicek of the Netherlands became the second unseeded champion, joining Boris Becker, who won the first of his three titles here as a 17-year-old in 1985.

Before a crowd that clearly favored Washington—who was making a bid to become the first black Wimbledon champion since Arthur Ashe in 1975—Krajicek won the final point when Washington hit a backhand into the net. Krajicek then fell to his knees, raised his arms to the heavens, and smiled broadly at his coach, his mother, and Deckers, who was sobbing in the friends' box.

"Of course I was unbelievably happy," said Krajicek, who needed only 1.31 minutes of playing time to defeat Washington, but had to sit through three rain delays that totaled 2.20 minutes. "But then I thought I might have the score wrong and I felt, 'Is the match really over? Am I making a fool of myself?' When nobody started laughing too much, I thought I won anyway."

In a Wimbledon full of the unusual, the unexpected, and most of all, the unfamiliar, it should come as no surprise that Krajicek wondered, even briefly, if his success was real. Sunday afternoon's match started with a female streaker who ran onto the court and flashed both players—as well as the Royal box, where the Duke of Kent could not hold back a smile—and it ended with Krajicek dropping the lid to the Challenge Cup at one end of the court, while Washington teasingly flashed his bare chest to an adoring crowd at the other.

"It's great when you can come into a tournament with everyone there—everyone in the world, the best players—and it's a Grand Slam and you're still standing on the last day," said Washington, 27, who seemed content with what he had accomplished. "You're one of the two. I look at that and say, for the fortnight, I was the second-best player in the world."

Never better than a quarterfinalist in any previous Grand Slam tournament, Washington clearly was the underdog from the start of this match. Krajicek may not have received a seed,



but he is ranked 13th in the world, and his serve is spectacular, as already was proven by the 29 aces he recorded in his quarterfinal victory over No. 1 Pete Sampras earlier this week.

The serve was Krajicek's chief weapon again Sunday, as Washington did not get even a sniff of a break until the third set, when he rallied to break Krajicek in the sixth game. When that game opened, Krajicek had just broken Washington to go up 4-1, and had won the previous 14 points.

"I would stand back, and boom, he would ace me out wide," Washington said. "I would stand in and he would ace me the other way. You never want to just stand there and let a guy get in a rhythm. I guess maybe if I had stood there he would have been out of rhythm, 'cause I was moving around and he had great rhythm then." Krajicek (who had 14 aces Sunday and 127 for the tournament) was quite methodical: He broke Washington once in the first set, once in the second, and twice in the third, the second of those times to win the match. After getting broken by Washington in the sixth game of the third set to make the score 4-2, Krajicek held serve to put him within one game of the title.

Krajicek likely did not receive a seed here despite his high ranking because he has lost in the first round at Wimbledon in both of the past two years. He also has been unbelievably injury-plagued, so much so that Andre Agassi quipped at this year's Australian Open that Krajicek "gets hurt even thinking about tennis."

"I think all the injuries put him in a cocoon," Deckers said Sunday, while accepting congratulations from well-wishers in a hallway outside Centre Court. "And he did not handle it very well."

Sunday, though, there were no excuses, and no twinges, and, finally, no more "should have been." ■

